

AN EVALUATIVE STUDY OF PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME FOR SCHEDULED CASTE AND SCHEDULED TRIBE STUDENTS

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PREFACE

The Union and the state governments and the union territory administrations have been, as a part of their general educational development programmes, giving financial assistance to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students. Large number of schemes are being implemented for this purpose. One of the important schemes is the pre-metric scholarship to these students. The main objective of this scheme is to help these students continue their studies without any hinderance. Whether the scholarships reach the students in time, whether they are adequate to meet their educational needs, what are the bottlenecks in disbursing the scholarships, what are the criteria of execution of the scheme etc. are the subject matter of this evaluative study.

The study has been undertaken on an all-India basis. The states and union territories have been divided into three clusters depending upon their respective Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population. Reports have been written cluster-wise. Thus there are a total of six reports - Three on Scheduled Castes and Three on Scheduled Tribes. There is no report on states and union territories where there is no Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe population.

The study has been taken up at the request of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (7th Lok Sabha) of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Planning Commission, and it has been funded by the Ministry of Welfare in consultation with the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

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C O N T E N T S

Preface	1 - 11
Introduction	1 - 15
Gujarat	16 - 82
Rajasthan	83 - 112
Assam	113 - 141
Maharashtra	142 - 181
Bihar	182 - 215
Appendix	183 - 218

INTRODUCTION

India is a democratic country. The people living in it are multilingual and multi-religious. The country has its own written constitution giving certain privileges to the people who are socially, economically and educationally backward. The Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other backward communities constitute these groups of people. India, being a welfare state, cannot afford to leave a particular section of its population behind in its march towards social, economic and educational development. To bridge the gap that exists between these communities and the other fairly advanced communities the constitution has given guarantees to the former that every effort will be made to bring them to the level of the latter.

Constitutional safeguards

Prior to independence the undeveloped communities used to be looked down upon by the other communities. Due to their extreme poverty and isolation they were not able to come at par with the other communities in economic, political and educational spheres. Special provisions were thus made in the constitution to meet their needs.

The constitution has made certain provision with regard to the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Some of the important articles are mentioned below.

Article 46 stipulates that, 'the state shall promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections of the people, and in particular of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and shall protect them from social injustices and all forms of exploitation'.

All programmes aimed at educational development of these communities emanate from this article of the constitution.

Article 164 provides that in the states of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa there shall be a Minister incharge of tribal welfare. Article 244 provides for the application of the fifth schedule to the administration and control of the scheduled areas and the Scheduled Tribes, whereas the sixth schedule will be applicable to the administration of the state of Assam (and now of Meghalaya and Mizoram).

Articles 330 and 332 respectively provide for reservation of seats for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the House of the people and the Legislative Assemblies. These reservations were to expire at the end of 30 years from the commencement of the constitution as envisaged in Article 334. Now they are extended upto 1990.

The constitution further provides, under Article 335 that due consideration will be given to the members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in matter of appointment. All reservation of seats in services emanate from this provision.

Article 338 provides for the appointment of a Special Officer to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided in the constitution and report to the President.

Similarly there are many provisions in the constitution which provide ample protection of interests of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and provide certain privileges to them. It can be safely said that due to the constitutional provision the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes have been able to develop socially, economically and educationally.

Background of the study

The Committee on the Welfare of the Scheduled Tribes (7th Lok Sabha) of the Ministry of Home Affairs and Planning Commission in its 21st report recommended, inter alia, that 'The committee hope that the NCERT will be able to evaluate working of the pre-matric scholarship scheme as early as possible and suggest corrective measures for strengthening the scheme with a view to accelerating the educational development of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and also to check the large incidence of dropout the children at the primary and middle school levels'.

Consequently, a meeting was held in the Ministry of Human Resource Development in which the representatives of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Ministry of Home Affairs and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) participated. It was decided in the meeting that the NCERT may take up the said study. The Joint Secretary (Schools), Department of Education in the Ministry of Human Resource Development requested the Director NCERT, to undertake the study who agreed to the proposal. The Ministry of Home Affairs (now the Ministry of Welfare) agreed to provide fund for the study.

Need of the study

The various State Governments have been spending considerable amount of money in providing a large number of incentives to the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the pre-matric scholarship scheme. The main intention behind the scheme is to provide monetary incentives to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students to enable them to prosecute their studies, and to prevent their large scale dropout. The Government would like to know whether the benefits provided under the scheme really reach the students and whether they are used for the purpose for which they are meant. There are often complaints of delay in disbursement of the scholarship. The amount

provided is also, at times, considered inadequate. The operational machinery has also come under criticism for its acts of omission and commission. It was, therefore, felt necessary to undertake a study to find out the above aspects of the pre-matric scholarship scheme.

Importance of the study

Since independence the Government of India and the State Governments have been trying to improve the educational standards of the underdeveloped people of India. Plan after plan substantial sums of money have been earmarked for their educational development. A number of incentive schemes have been launched for them so that they can take benefit of the scheme and prosecute their studies further. These benefits are given to them with a view to helping them meet the cost of education and lessening the economic burden on their parents.

Imparting education to the children belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes has been much emphasised in the five-year plans. Even the New Policy on Education, 1986, has laid great emphasis on educational development of the two communities.

The success of any educational scheme depends on the finance available for it. The previous studies available on the financial assistance given to the tribal children

indicate that the spread of education among the tribes was due to the provisions of awards of scholarships, stipends, book grants, hostel grants, free distribution of slates, pencils and textbooks, exemption from tuition fees and examination fees, free supply of dresses and mid day meals. The above incentives are provided to children belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in order to attract them to the school and retain them there. The schemes are operating in one form or the other in all the States and Union Territories in the Indian Union.

Pre-matric scholarship is one such incentive scheme. It is operating in many of the States and Union Territories of India. But so far there has been no systematic attempt made to find out as to how the scheme of financial assistance for pre-matric students is operating. This is the first study of its kind and is concentrated on the operation of the scheme on an all-India basis and has come out with corrective measures in order to strengthen and streamline the scheme.

Scope of the study

The scope of the study is wide. All States and Union Territories, having population of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, are covered. Five districts from each

of the States and three from each of the Union Territories have been selected for the study. All types of incentive schemes and pre-matric scholarship scheme meant for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are covered. The beneficiaries at primary, middle and secondary levels of schooling are included for interviewing. Also the parents of the selected beneficiaries have been interviewed with regard to many aspects of the pre-matric scholarship scheme. The headmasters of the sample schools are also interviewed. Education Officers at the state headquarters are also interviewed to obtain relevant data on the expenditure and number of beneficiaries for different years. Thus the study covers a wide range of respondents and a big geographical area.

The research design

Statement of the problem : Pre-matric scholarship scheme for the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students is one of the major schemes providing different types of monetary and other incentives to them to enable them to prosecute their studies. Most of the States and Union Territory administrations have introduced this scheme which has been operating for several years now. It would be desirable to find out whether the scheme has, in fact, provided any benefit to the students, whether the monetary assistance

provided to the students is adequate, reaches them in time, and is utilized for the purpose for which it is meant. Making these information available to the government would enable them to revamp the operational machinery.

A brief overview of work already done in the area of the study

The Project Director of this study had undertaken a study entitled "Utilization of Financial Assistance given by the Government to Tribal Students (NCERT, New Delhi, 1971) in which the scheme of pre-matric scholarship was partly covered. The study was, however, undertaken in only four sample states of Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura. Other than this, to the best of our knowledge, no study on pre-matric scholarship scheme has been undertaken.

Research question of hypothesis : Answer to the following research question were attempted in this study.

- i) What are the different types of monetary incentives provided under the scheme of pre-matric scholarship to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students?
- ii) What is the coverage of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students under the scheme ?
- iii) What are the rules and regulations governing the implementation of the scheme and how these help or

obstruct the smooth functioning of the operational machinery.

- iv) Is the pre-matric scholarship adequate to meet the educational requirement of students ?
- v) Is the amount of scholarship disbursed to students utilized by them for the purpose for which it is meant ?
- vi) What are the corrective measures that can be taken to strengthen and streamline the scheme ?

Objectives of the study : The following are the objectives of the evaluative study - To review the functioning of the pre-matric scholarship scheme for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students; to examine the beneficiaries under the scheme; to study the rules and regulations governing pre-matric scholarships, to find out the progress, regularity, extent and causes of delay, and bottlenecks for the award of pre-matric scholarship, and to suggest corrective measures to strengthen the scheme and improving the operational machinery of the scheme.

Sample and coverage : The study was conducted in three phases. The States and Union Territories were divided into three clusters. Cluster one consisted of those States and Union Territories which have more than 20 per cent Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes population. Cluster

two consisted of those which have more than the national percentage (15.75 in case of Scheduled Caste and 7.76 in case of Scheduled Tribes) but less than 20 per cent population. Cluster three consisted of those States and Union Territories which have less than the national percentage of population. The States and Union Territories in Cluster one were covered in phase one, those in cluster two in phase two and those in cluster three in phase three. States and Union Territories having no Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population were excluded from the study. A list of cluster-wise States and Union Territories in respect of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes is given below'.

Cluster	States and Union Territories for the study of Scheduled Castes	States and Union Territories for the study of Scheduled Tribes
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I		
More than 20 per cent population	Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh	Lakshdweep, Mizoram, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Manipur, Sikkim, Madhya Pradesh, and Orissa

II		
More than the national percentage (15.75 in case of Scheduled Castes and 7.76 in case of Scheduled Tribes) but less than 20 per cent population.	Haryana, Tamil Nadu, Delhi, Pondicherry and Rajasthan.	Gujarat, Rajasthan, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Assam, Maharashtra and Bihar.

III

Less than the national percentage (15.75 in case of Scheduled Castes and 7.76 in case of Scheduled Tribes)	Tripura, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Chandigarh, Kerala, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Assam, Sikkim, Goa, Daman & Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, and Mizoram.	Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Goa, Daman & Diu
No Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and hence no study was made.	Nagaland, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.	Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Chandigarh, Delhi and Pondicherry.

Five districts from each of the sample States and three districts from each of the Union Territory were selected for the study. From each district one primary, one middle and one high school were selected. Since in a particular State/Union Territory the same scheme would be in operation in all the schools, coverage of the above number of schools in each one of them was considered adequate. Districts and schools were selected on the basis of the highest enrolment of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students.

Two beneficiaries from each school, their parents, the headmasters of the sample schools and education officers at state level were interviewed to elicit information about the various aspects of the functioning of the scheme.

Tools and techniques : Primary data were collected from the beneficiaries, their parents and schools headmasters from the sample districts. Secondary data were collected from the office of the Directorate of Public Instruction/ Directorate of School Education or Social Welfare Department/ District Welfare Office or District Education Office of the sample districts. Separate schedules were canvassed for the headmasters, beneficiaries and parents. Apart from the above tools, interview guides for state and district level officials were also used. Field notes were also maintained.

The schedules for headmasters give the information about the introduction of the pre-matric scholarship scheme in the state, processes involved in selection of beneficiaries, headmaster's role in the disbursement of funds and causes of delay in disbursement, if any, and utilization of scholarship by the students. Lastly, his suggestions on the pre-matric scholarship scheme were also incorporated.

In the schedule for beneficiaries incentives items which he gets, his knowledge about pre-matric scholarship, its utilization etc. were covered.

In the schedules for parents awareness of children's education, incentive which the child gets and other information about the pre-matric scholarship scheme and his suggestions were covered.

Data processing : The collected data were processed manually. No computerization of the data was resorted to.

Time budgeting :

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|-------|--|-------------|
| i) | Preparatory work including selection and appointment of staff and their training | - 1 month |
| ii) | Pilot study | - 1 month |
| iii) | Drawing of the sample | - 2 months |
| iv) | Tool construction | - 2 months |
| v) | Data collection | - 12 months |
| vi) | Data processing | - 6 months |
| vii) | Data analysis | - 6 months |
| viii) | Report writing | - 6 months |

Total - 36 months

Limitation of the study : While conducting the study, many limitations were observed throughout the field work. The first handicap was indifferent attitude of officials at the state level. Because of their attitude, it was not possible to get secondary data properly in many states, especially in the north-eastern states. As has been mentioned earlier, three types of schedules were canvassed : on headmasters, beneficiaries and parents. While canvassing the schedule on parents and beneficiaries it was highly difficult to get responses from them. Another set back was the direct The investigators had to depend on interpreter who often was a teacher. Hence there was a chance of biased views. However, necessary precaution was taken to avoid the biased responses. The schedules for the beneficiaries were canvassed, as far as possible, in front of the teachers. Since many students were not able to respond in front of the teachers, the investigators met them in leisure time or after school hours to interview them.

Besides, the usual difficulties in tribal areas were faced by the project staff. Considerable time was spent in covering remote distances. In north-eastern areas transport facilities were difficult to get. In such states investigators faced difficult situation to go from one place to another.

However, inspite of all limitations and difficulties mentioned above, work in the States and Union Territories have been successfully completed and its results given in the succeeding chapters.

The introduction will be repeated in all the cluster reports because information contained in it is common to all of them.

GUJARAT

Chapter One

SCHEMES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The Government of Gujarat has provided various types of financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students to increase their enrolment at primary and secondary levels. A number of schemes of financial assistance in both cash and kind have been introduced to partially meet the cost of education on education.

There are two directorates of education in the state: one at the primary level and the other at the secondary level. Besides the above two, there is also a separate directorate of welfare which deals with the welfare activities of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes. All these directorates have introduced various schemes of financial assistance at the primary and the secondary levels. According to 1981 census, Gujarat has a Scheduled Tribe population of 48 lakhs, constituting 14.22 per cent of the total state population.

An attempt has been made in the present study to review the facilities available to Scheduled Tribe students studying at pre-matric level. The date of reference of the data is September, 1989.

The present study covers five districts of the state namely, Vadodara, Bharuch, Surat, Valsad and Panchmahal. The sample schools selected for this study are situated in the tribal sub-plan areas of the above districts.

The following schemes have been implemented by the Directorate of Primary Education at the primary level.

- 1) Uniforms - The Government of Gujarat have been supplying free uniforms to Scheduled Tribe students studying in classes I and II to encourage parents to send their children to school and to reduce expenditure on children's education.
- 2) Textbooks - The Government of Gujarat took a decision to supply textbooks to all children studying at primary level. The purpose of the scheme was to reduce the cost of children's education and to attract more students towards education. This scheme was started by State Government in the year 1985.

The scheme was first implemented in tribal areas at the beginning and later on it was extended to non-tribal areas. In the year 1985, textbooks were supplied to Scheduled Tribe students studying in classes I to VII in tribal areas.

- 3) Scholarships - The Government of Gujarat decided to award scholarships for girl students studying in classes V to VII in the most backward talukas of the state. The purpose of providing scholarship was to meet educational expenditure and

students studying in class VIII to X.

A minimum of 30 students are required to start such a coaching class in a school. Student's performance at the quarterly examination is taken into consideration for giving coaching. Teachers who teach such classes are paid a remuneration of Rs.125 per month for a period of 7 months. Two teachers are appointed to conduct these classes, before or after school hours.

2) Book bank Under this scheme, textbooks are supplied free by the government to the Scheduled Tribe students. After completing the academic year, these books are again collected back by the headmasters to keep them in book bank for use in the next academic session.

3) Scholarships The purpose of awarding scholarship is to meet expenditure incurred by the students and also to create competitive spirit among them. The scholarship is awarded to those students who join class VIII and secure the highest number of marks in class VII at taluk level. From each taluk, three students are selected based on their marks. The rate of scholarship is Rs.350 per annum, Rs.250 per annum and 200 per annum to those students standing first, second and third at taluk level respectively.

In tribal areas, the scheme is implemented in 32 taluks.

A brief note on various schemes implemented by Directorate of Social Welfare

- 1) Examination fees The examination fees charged by Secondary Education Board is paid by the government to the Scheduled Tribe students. It includes marksheet fee also. Even one failure by the student makes him eligible for the examination fees. While paying examination fees, regular attendance, satisfactory progress and good conduct are taken into consideration.
- 2) Tution fees Education is free upto secondary level for both boys and girls in the state of Gujarat since a long time. But tution fees is being paid by the government to Scheduled Tribes student studying in non-government schools. Even one failure by the student makes him eligible for the tution fees.
- 3) Pre-matric scholarship This scheme is introduced by the State Government to raise the standard of education among the Scheduled Tribe students to encourage them to get admission in good academic institutions. Under this scheme, the provision is made to give Rs.40 per annum to those students securing marks between 38 per cent and 59 per cent in class V-VII studying in government schools. The rate of scholarship is Rs 55 to those students securing 60 per cent and above marks and studying in classes V-VII in government schools.

The rate of scholarship is Rs 75 per annum to those students studying in government schools and securing marks between 38 per cent and 59 per cent in classes VIII to X while the rate of scholarship is Rs. 100 to those students securing 60 per cent and above marks.

The rate of scholarship is Rs 60 per annum to those students securing marks between 45 per cent and 59 per cent in class V studying in private schools whereas it is Rs 80 per annum to those students securing 60 per cent and above marks studying in class V of private school.

The rate of scholarship is Rs 75 per annum and Rs 90 per annum in class VI and VII, respectively to those students studying in private schools and securing between 45 per cent and 59 per cent of marks while the rate of scholarship is Rs 100 per annum and Rs 120 per annum to those students securing 60 per cent and above marks studying in class VI and VII.

In addition to the marks, income limit is also another criterion to award this scholarship. The income limit fixed by the government for Scheduled Tribe students is Rs 10,000 per annum. But income limit criterion has been removed from the year 1988-89.

4. Free books and clothes to landless labour's children

Under this scheme, two pairs of uniforms and free books, slate and pen are supplied to the children of landless labourers studying in class I to VII. Uniforms and free books etc. are provided within the cost of Rs. 36 and Rs. 10 respectively per child to those parents whose income from all sources does not exceed Rs. 12,000 per annum and Rs. 10,000 per annum respectively.

Till the beginning of this academic year, uniforms and free books etc. were supplied to those children who fulfilled the above norms. Recently, the government of Gujarat has decided to give cash instead of uniforms and textbooks to all children studying in classes I to VII irrespective of their parents' annual income and occupation.

5. Opportunity cost to most backward communities among the Scheduled Tribes

A special incentive scheme was introduced by the state government for children of the most backward communities among the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to encourage their parents to send children to schools instead of keeping them engaged in their traditional occupation. The most backward communities benefitted under this scheme among Scheduled Tribes are the Kolgha, Kolcha, Kathodi, Padhav, Sidi, Dukla and Kotwalis.

Under this scheme, boys are given Rs. 250 per annum and girls Rs 300 per annum provided that their attendance in classes I to VII is 70 per cent in both the terms. In each family two boys and two girls will be awarded scholarship on the basis of the above mentioned criterion.

Recently, state government has made certain modification to make the scheme easier in order to avoid delay in disbursing the scholarship amount. Accordingly, they decided to consider the previous academic year's attendance for the award of scholarship. There is no bar on attendance for the children studying in class I for awarding this scholarship.

6. Special scholarship to Scheduled Tribe students

Under this scheme, financial assistance is provided to the most backward communities of the Scheduled Tribes studying in classes VIII to X. The scholarship is awarded to those students whose parents' income does not excess Rs 3500 per year. A provision is made in this scheme to give Rs 200 per year to boys and Rs 240 per year to girls.

In order to make the scheme easier the state government have passed a resolution on 4.6.1988. Accordingly, the scholarships are paid based on the previous academic year's information provided by the school authorities. Earlier, the students were asked to submit income certificates in the beginning of the every academic year but now income certificate are asked only in standard VIII.

Mid day meal scheme

Mid day meals scheme was started by the state government in the year 1984 with the aim of raising nutrition standards of the children in the growing age group. It was first introduced in the 68 taluks of the state and later on it was extended to the other taluks. The scheme is now functioning in all the primary schools run by the government, panchayats and municipalities.

The entire cost of the scheme is borne by the state government. Under this scheme mid day meal is provided to the children on working days which work out to about 220 days in a year.

The cost per child under this scheme is roughly estimated as follows:

1. Food stuffs (including condiments and vegetables)	70 paise
2. Fuel	10 paise
3. Miscellaneous expenditure, contingencies administrative expenditure etc.	20 paise
	<hr/> 100 Paise <hr/>

The daily menu per child per day is as follows:

1. Wheat(or Jowar, Bajra, Maize, etc.)	60 gms
2. Rice	20 gms
3. Pulses	20 gms
4. Cooking oil	5 gms
5. Vegetable & condiments	50 gms

The menu can be determined locally depending upon the local taste, preference and convenience.

Arrangements for supply

The Gujarat state civil supplies department and Gujarat state civil supplies corporation supply food stuffs through fair price shops. These fair price shops in turn supply these goods to the mid day meal centre. In case the mid day meal centre is situated too far away from the fair price shop, transport facilities are provided by the district collector to reach food stuffs to the mid day meal centre.

Vegetables and condiments, such as fuel wood are procured locally and mid day meal organiser is made responsible for this. If the civil supplies corporation is not in a position to supply any of the items, for a temporary period, local arrangements may have to be made for the purchase of such items.

Monitoring

At the state level, there is a state level monitoring and review committee headed by the Chief Minister and in which, the Ministers and Secretaries concerned with the scheme act as members. The Director of mid day meal programme is the Member Secretary of this Committee. There is a state level implementation committee headed by the chief secretary with the Secretaries and Head of the Departments concerned as members. The Director of mid day meal scheme is working as member secretary of this committee also.

Table 1 : Selection criteria

N = 15

Criteria	Response	Percentage
Low income of the parents	9	60.0
Children's performance	3	20.0
By virtue of being Scheduled Tribes	12	80.0
Low status	3	20.0

Scheme-wise selection has been discussed earlier. The responses of the headmasters are given below:

All the headmasters interviewed gave more than one response. They expressed the view that criteria like annual income of parents, children's performance, their belonging to Scheduled Tribe community and low status were considered

while awarding the financial assistance. However, 80 per cent said that their belonging to Scheduled Tribe community was considered for awarding the scholarship. Another 20 per cent each stated that children's performance and low status were also taken into consideration for awarding the scholarships. Out of 20 students interviewed, 90 per cent stated that they were aware of the criteria for awarding scholarship while 10 per cent stated that they were not aware of the criteria. Out of the students who were aware of the criteria, 100 per cent stated that those who belong to Scheduled Tribe community were awarded and 14.1 stated that those who come from low income group get the scholarship.

Table 2 : Criteria for applying for the pre-matric scholarship

N = 15

Criteria	Response	Percentage
The students names are forwarded to the education or welfare department	15	100

All the headmasters interviewed stated that the students' names are sent to either the District Education Office or the District Social Welfare/Backward Class Welfare Office.

The centre level committee is appointed by the Mamlatdar to assist each mid day meal centre. This committee is constituted as follows:

1. Parents' representative (2 of these must be women)	4
2. Sarpanch	1
3. Headmaster	1
4. Mid day meal organiser	1

Out of parents representatives one member is appointed from the Scheduled Castes. Where there is Scheduled Tribe population one more member representing Scheduled Tribe may be included in the committee. Similarly, minorities and backward classes may also be given representation where such population is there. In exceptional cases, membership may go upto 11. This committee renders all help for the running of the scheme and also act as a watch dog committee.

Machinery and mode of disbursement

The scholarship are looked after by the respective education directorate and welfare department. There is a planning officer in the directorate of primary education to lookafter the various schemes implemented at primary level. As there is no separate directorate of secondary education, directorate of higher education implements the various schemes implemented at the secondary level. In none of these directorates there is a separate branch/section to lookafter the pre-matric scholarship schemes.

In the beginning of the academic year, the education directorates allocate funds to the District Primary Education Officer and the District Education Officer(Secondary) and they send circulars to all the schools in the district to send them the previous academic year's particulars of students. After receiving this information from the headmasters, they scrutinise this information and select eligible students for awarding scholarships. They also prepare the final lists and send bills to the district treasury, which issues cheques in the name of Taluka Education Officers. District Primary Education Officer sends one copy of selected students list to the Taluka Education Officer. After receiving cheques from the treasury and selected students list, Taluka Education Officer draws the amount from the local state Bank and distributes this amount to the schools along with selected students list. Then the schools call the headmasters under their jurisdiction and handover the amount to them who then, in the presence of the village sarpanch and parents, distribute the amount to the students.

Mode of distribution of textbooks

Textbooks are supplied by the Textbook Board. The respective education directorates place orders for textbooks before the commencement of academic year, and also pay 50 per cent of the amount in advance. The board directly supplies textbooks to the District Education Officers who in turn supply these books to the schools.

Mode of distribution of uniforms

The Directorate of Primary Education places order to Gujarat State Handloom Corporation for distribution uniforms to the students at the rate of Rs 20 per pair. The Handloom Corporation stitches uniforms as per the sizes of the students and supplies to the Taluka Development Officers, who hand over these uniforms to the pay schools for distribution to the concerned schools.

Administration of mid day meal scheme

At the state level the scheme is operated by the education department. The Commissioner for the mid day meal scheme is the operational head of the scheme. A separate directorate has been set up for the implementation of the scheme.

At the district level, District Collector is responsible for the implementation of the scheme. He is assisted by the Deputy Collector, two Deputy Mamlatdars and one Deputy Accountant.

The district development officer extends all possible help to the District Collector in implementation of the scheme.

Extent of financial assistance

Financial assistance is provided by the education department and welfare department to a large number of pupils under various schemes. Scheme-wise coverage at state level and in sample districts are discussed below.

Table 3 : Year-wise allocation and expenditure of various schemes implemented at primary level (in lakhs)

Type of the scheme	Allocation			Expenditure			Number of beneficiaries		
	85-86	86-87	87-88	85-86	86-87	87-88	85-86	86-87	87-88
Uniforms	48.00	65.00	35.00	57.25	65.00	35.00	2.86	3.25	1.75
Textbooks	50.00	50.00	50.00	50.00	57.00	71.15	10.00	9.42	10.86
Scholarships	57.50	57.60	57.00	57.60	57.60	57.60	0.58	0.58	0.58
Coaching classes for weaker students	10.00	5.00	5.00	-	9.20	-	-	0.92	-

Uniforms are supplied to the Scheduled Tribe students studying in classes I and II. In the year 1985-86, the total allocation was Rs 48 lakhs and Rs 57.25 lakhs spent on 2.86 lakh beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, the total allocation was Rs 65 lakhs and the same was spent on 3.25 lakhs beneficiaries. The allocation was Rs 35 lakhs in the year 1987-88 and same was spent on 1.75 lakhs beneficiaries.

Textbooks are supplied by the Government to the students studying in classes I to VII. In the year 1985-86, the allocation was Rs 50 lakhs and the same was spent on 10 lakhs beneficiaries. The allocation was Rs 50 lakhs in the year 1986-87 and Rs 67 lakhs were spent on 9.42 lakhs beneficiaries. In the year 1987-88 the allocation was Rs 50 lakhs and Rs 71.15 lakhs were spent on 10.86 lakhs beneficiaries.

Table 4 : Year-wise allocation and expenditure of various schemes implemented at the secondary level

(Rs in lakhs)

Type of the scheme	Allocation			Expenditure			Number of beneficiaries		
	85-86	86-87	87-88	85-86	86-87	87-88	85-86	86-87	87-88
Coaching grant	1.30	2.20	2.20	1.09	3.22	6.84	750	1,900	1,450
Book bank	7.00	8.80	12.00	7.00	8.80	12.00	22,490	19,350	19,527
Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe students	0.30	1.90	2.45	0.77	1.77	1.80	96	96	114

Table 4 shows allocation, expenditure and number of beneficiaries of various schemes implemented at the secondary level.

Under the scheme of coaching grant in the year 1985-86, Rs 1.30 lakhs were allocated and Rs 1.09 lakhs were spent on the 750 beneficiaries whereas in the year 1986-87 and 1987-88, Rs 2.20 lakhs each were allocated and Rs 3.22 lakhs and Rs 6.84 lakhs were spent on 1,900 and 1,450 beneficiaries respectively. The expenditure was more than the allocation in the year 1986-87 and 1987-88. There is an increase in the number of beneficiaries in the year 1986-87.

Under the scheme of book bank, in the year 1985-86, Rs 7 lakhs were allocated and the same amount were spent on 22,490 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 8.80

lakhs were allocated and the same amount were spent on 19,350 beneficiaries whereas in the year 1987-88, Rs 12 lakhs were allocated and the same amount were spent on 19,927 beneficiaries.

There is a continuous increase in the allocation of funds from the year 1985-86 to 1987-88 and the same amount were spent from the year 1985-86 to 1987-88. But there is decrease in the number of beneficiaries from the year 1985-86 to 1987-88. Under this scheme, books are supplied to the students in the beginning of the academic year and at the end of academic year these books were again collected by the headmaster from the students to keep in book bank for utilizing in the next academic year. Because of this reason the number of beneficiaries decreased from the year 1985-86 to 1987-88.

Under the scheme of scholarships, in the year 1985-86 Rs 0.20 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.77 lakhs were spent on 90 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87 and 1987-88, Rs 1.90 lakhs and Rs 2.45 lakhs were allocated under this scheme respectively and Rs 1.77 lakhs and Rs 1.80 lakhs were spent on 25 and 114 beneficiaries respectively.

Even though there is a continuous increase in the allocation from the year 1985-86 to 1987-88, the expenditure was less than the allocation. However, there was a continuous increase in the number of beneficiaries.

Table 5 : Allocation and expenditure of various scheme implemented at pre-matric level by welfare department

(Rs. in lakhs)

Details of the scheme	Allocation	Expenditure	Number of beneficiaries
	85-86	86-87	87-88
Examination fees	6.05	9.76	8.80
Tuition fees	23.80	25.51	27.90
Pre-matric students scholarship	146.87	156.91	141.15
Free supply of books and clothes to children of landless labourers	20.00	25.84	13.75
Special Scholar-ship for the children studying in classes I-VII	18.12	33.82	23.17
Special scholar-ship for the children studying in classes VIII-X	18.76	30.44	23.63

The table above shows allocation, expenditure and number of beneficiaries of various schemes implemented by the welfare department at the pre-matric level.

Under the scheme of examination fees, Rs 6.05 lakhs were allocated in the year 1985-86 and Rs 8.84 lakhs were spent on 20,739 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 9.76 lakhs were allocated and Rs 9.32 lakhs spent on 25,967 beneficiaries. In the year 1987-88 Rs 8.80 lakhs were allocated and Rs 8.81 lakhs spent on 25,111 beneficiaries. There is a wide ~~disparity~~ disparity in the allocation and expenditure in the year 1985-86, whereas both allocation and expenditure were more or less the same in the years 1986-87 and 1987-88. There is an increase in the number of beneficiaries in the year 1986-87.

Tuition fees is being paid by the government to the Scheduled Tribe students studying in non-government schools. Under this scheme, in the year 1985-86, Rs 23.80 lakhs were allocated and Rs 30.11 lakhs were spent on 69,034 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 25.51 lakhs were allocated and Rs 23.01 lakhs were spent on 58,405 beneficiaries. In the year 1987-88, Rs 27.90 lakhs were allocated and Rs 18.89 lakhs were spent on 82,949 beneficiaries.

The expenditure incurred in the years 1986-87 to 1987-88 was less than the amount allocated in these years, but there was an increase in the number of beneficiaries in the year 1987-88.

Under the scheme of pre-^{matric} students scholarship in the year 1985-86 Rs 146.87 lakhs were allocated and Rs 159.39 lakhs spent on 1,30,212 lakh beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 156.91 lakhs were allocated and Rs 157.15 lakhs spent on 2,23,168 beneficiaries. In the year 1987-88, Rs 141.16 lakhs were allocated and Rs 141.24 lakhs were spent on 2,04,057 beneficiaries. The expenditure and allocation were more or less the same in the years 1986-87 and 1987-88. There is an increase in the number of beneficiaries in the year 1986-87.

Under the scheme of free supply of books and clothes to the children of land less labourers, in the year 1985-86, Rs 20.0 lakhs were allocated and Rs 20.70 lakhs were spent on 52,644 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 25.84 lakhs were allocated and Rs 10.73 lakhs were spent on 30,065 beneficiaries. In the year 1987-88, Rs 13.79 lakhs were allocated and Rs 57.83 lakhs were spent on 1,64,125 beneficiaries.

The expenditure was more than the allocation in the year 1985-86 and 1987-88 whereas in the year 1986-87, the expenditure was less than the allocation. There is an increase in the number of beneficiaries in the year 1987-88.

Under the scheme of special scholarship for the children studying in classes I-VII, in the year 1985-86, Rs 18.12 lakhs were allocated and Rs 8.14 lakhs spent on 4,369 beneficiaries. In the year, 1986-87, Rs 33.82 lakhs

were allocated and Rs 27.59 lakhs spent on 10,862 beneficiaries. In the year 1987-88 Rs 23.17 lakhs were allocated and Rs 107.45 lakhs spent on 9,684 beneficiaries.

There is a wide disparity in the allocation and expenditure incurred during the above years but there is an increase in the number of beneficiaries in the year 1986-87.

Under the scheme of special scholarships for the children studying in classes VIII-X, in the year 1985-86, Rs 18.76 lakhs were allocated and Rs 17.42 lakhs spent on 8,817 beneficiaries. In the year, 1986-87 Rs 30.44 lakhs were allocated and Rs 28.47 lakhs were spent on 10,253 beneficiaries. In the year 1987-88 Rs 23.63 lakhs were allocated and Rs 34.76 lakhs were spent on 18,008 beneficiaries.

There is an increase in the number of beneficiaries from the year 1985-86 to 1987-88.

Table 6 : Coverage of Scheduled Tribe students under mid day meals scheme

Year	Allocation	Expenditure	(Rs.in lakhs)
			Number of beneficiaries
1985-86	675.00	685.35	5.06 lakhs
1986-87	1,065.00	868.02	3.81 lakhs
1987-88	1,010.00	916.76	4.95 lakhs

In the year 1985-86, the allocation was Rs 675.00 lakhs and Rs 685.35 lakhs were spent on 5.06 lakhs of beneficiaries. In the year, 1986-87 the allocation was Rs 1,065.00 lakhs and Rs 868.02 lakhs were spent on 3.81 lakhs beneficiaries. In the year 1987-88 the allocation was Rs 1,010.00 lakhs and Rs 916.76 lakhs were spent on 4.95 lakhs beneficiaries.

The scheme is meant for all the school-going children and it is useful for Scheduled Tribe students whose economic condition is poor.

Table 7 : Year-wise distribution of uniform in sample districts

Sample district	Number of beneficiaries		
	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
Vadodara	18,426	47,757	12,418
Bharuch	27,130	35,945	20,449
Surat	52,107	67,574	32,525
Valsad	65,853	56,209	32,257
Panchmahal	51,338	68,878	54,341

In Vadodara in the year 1985-86, uniforms were supplied to 18,426 students, in 1986-87 and 1987-88, they were supplied to 47,757 and 12,418 students respectively.

In Bharuch in the year 1985-86, 27,130 students were benefitted under this scheme, whereas in the years 1986-87 and 1987-88, uniforms were supplied to 35,945 and 20,449 students respectively.

In Surat in the year 1985-86, 52,101 students were benefitted under this scheme whereas in the years 1986-87 and 1987-88, 67,574 and 32,525 students respectively were benefitted under this scheme.

In Valsad during the year 1985-86 uniforms were distributed to 65,853 students while in the years 1986-87 and 1987-88, 56,209 and 32,257 students were benefitted under this scheme respectively.

In Panchmahal in the year 1985-86, 51,338 students were benefitted under this scheme while 68,878 students were benefitted in the year 1986-87. In the year 1987-88, 54,341 students were benefitted.

Among all the sample districts the highest number of students were benefitted in Valsad district in the year 1985-86 while during the year 1986-87 and 1987-88 Panchmahal attracted more number of beneficiaries followed by Surat.

Textbooks are supplied by Textbook Board directly to Taluka Education Inspector. After reaching books to the concerned talukas, payments are made by Directorate of Primary Education to the textbook board. Hence district wise allocation, and expenditure particulars were not provided by the district level officials. Consolidated district-wise figures were not available in the directorate office hence no information is given by these officials.

Table 8 : Scholarship for Scheduled Tribe students in the sample districts

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sample districts	Allocation			Expenditure			Number of beneficiaries		
	85-86	86-87	87-88	85-86	86-87	87-88	85-86	86-87	87-88
Vadodara	0.88	0.88	0.88	0.54	0.33	0.30	54	33	301
Bharuch	1.10	1.10	1.10	1.10	0.84	0.62	1,100	834	618
Surat	5.10	5.50	4.34	5.10	5.50	4.34	5,100	5,500	4,340
Valsad	1.64	1.64	1.49	1.64	1.64	1.49	1,640	1,640	1,438
Panchmahal	7.30	7.70	7.47	6.59	5.78	4.86	2,318	1,865	2,320

In Vadodara in the year 1985-86, Rs 0.88 lakhs were allocated and 0.54 were spent on 54 beneficiaries while in the year 1986-87 Rs 0.88 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.33 were spent on 33 beneficiaries. In the year 1987-88 Rs 0.88 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.30 lakhs were spent on 301 beneficiaries.

In Bharuch during the year 1985-86, Rs 1.10 lakhs were allocated and the same amount were spent on 1,100 beneficiaries. Whereas, in the year 1986-87 and 1987-88 Rs 1.10 lakhs each were allocated and Rs 0.84 lakhs and Rs 0.62 lakhs were spent on 834 and 618 beneficiaries respectively.

In Surat in the year 1985-86 Rs 5.10 lakhs were allocated and the same amount was spent on 5,100 students. The amount allocated during the year 1986-87 was Rs 5.50 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 5,500 students. In the year 1987-88, Rs 4.34 lakhs were allocated and the same amount was spent on 4,349 students.

In Valsad district, during the year 1985-86 and 1986-87 Rs 1.64 lakhs each were allocated and the same amount was spent on 1,640 students each respectively. In the year 1987-88, Rs 1.49 lakhs were allocated and the same amount was spent on 1,487 beneficiaries.

In Panchmahal in the year 1985-86, Rs 7.30 lakhs were allocated and Rs 6.59 lakhs were spent on 2,318 students whereas in the year 1986-87, Rs 7.70 lakhs were allocated and Rs 5.78 lakhs were spent on 1,965 beneficiaries. In the 1987-88 Rs 7.47 lakhs were allocated and Rs 4.86 lakhs were spent on 2,320 students.

In Surat and Valsad districts, both allocation and expenditure were same in the above years whereas in Vadodara, Bharuch and Panchmahal districts the expenditure was less than the allocation. The highest number of students were benefitted in Surat district followed by Panchmahal district.

Table 9 : Expenditure and number of beneficiaries of coaching grant scheme for the primary school students

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sample districts	Allocation			Expenditure		Number of beneficiaries	
	85-86	86-87	87-88	85-86	87-88	85-86	87-88
Vadodara	1.07	0.66	0.35	1.80		18,000	
Eharuch	0.49	0.47	0.20	0.07		700	
Surat	1.12	0.39	0.35	1.86		18,600	
Valsad	1.10	0.52	0.25	0.25		2,500	
Pandemahal	1.13	0.51	0.30	1.20		12,000	

In Vadodara district in the year 1985-86 to 1987-88 Rs 1.07 lakhs Rs 0.66 lakhs and Rs 0.35 lakhs were allocated and Rs 1.80 lakhs were spent in the above years on 18,000 beneficiaries. In Eharuch during the year 1985-86 to 1987-88 Rs 0.49 lakhs, Rs 0.40 lakhs and Rs 0.20 lakhs were allocated respectively and Rs 0.07 lakhs were spent during the three years on 700 students. In Surat district, in the year 1985-86 to 1987-88, Rs 1.12 lakhs, Rs 0.39 lakhs and Rs 0.35 lakhs were allocated respectively and Rs 1.86 lakhs were spent on 18,600 beneficiaries. In Valsad during the years 1985-86 to 1987-88, Rs 1.10 lakhs Rs 0.52 lakhs and Rs 0.25 lakhs were allocated respectively and Rs 0.25 lakhs were spent during these years

on 2,500 beneficiaries. In the Fanchanahal district during the year 1985-86 to 1987-88, Rs 1.13 lakhs, Rs 0.51 lakhs and Rs 0.30 lakhs were allocated respectively and Rs 1.20 lakhs were spent in these years on 12,000 students.

The expenditure was less than the allocation in all these years and Surat district attracted the highest number of beneficiaries followed by Vadodara.

Table 10 : Expenditure and number of beneficiaries of coaching grant scheme for the secondary school (VIII-X) students

(Rs in lakhs)

Sample district	Allocation			Expenditure			Number of beneficiaries		
	85-86	86-87	87-88	85-86	86-87	87-88	85-86	86-87	87-88
Vadodara	0.76	0.20	0.09	0.08	0.20	0.09	120	290	120
Bharuch	0.05	0.19	0.15	0.05	0.19	0.15	90	259	160
Surat	0.37	0.20	0.24	0.37	0.20	0.24	90	310	280
Valsad	0.75	0.10	0.15	0.75	0.10	0.15	90	306	160
Panchmahal	0.85	0.12	0.15	0.35	0.12	0.15	180	210	160

In the year 1985-86 in Vadodara district Rs 0.76 were allocated and the same amount were spent on 120 students whereas in the year 1986-87 and 1987-88 Rs 0.20 lakhs and Rs 0.09 lakhs were respectively allocated and the same amount

were spent on 290 and 120 students respectively. In Bharuch in the year 1985-86, Rs 0.05 lakhs were allocated and the same amount were spent on 90 students. During the year ~~1986-87~~ 1987-88, Rs 0.19 lakhs and Rs 0.15 lakhs were allocated and the same amount were spent on 259 and 160 students respectively. In Valsad in the year 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 Rs 0.75, Rs 0.10 and Rs 0.15 lakhs were allocated respectively and the same amount were spent on 90, 306 and 160 students respectively. In Surat in the year 1985-86, Rs 0.37 were allocated whereas in the years 1986-87 and 1987-88 Rs 0.20 lakhs and Rs 0.24 lakhs were allocated respectively and the same amount were spent in these years on 90, 310 and 280 students respectively. In Panchmahal in the year 1985-86, Rs 0.85 were allocated and the same amount were spent on 180 students whereas in the years 1986-87 and 1987-88, Rs 0.12 lakhs and Rs 0.15 lakhs were allocated and the same amount were spent on 210 and 160 students respectively.

... The allocation was highest in the year 1986-87 compared to 1985-86 and 1987-88 in all the sample districts. The highest number of students benefited under this scheme were from Surat followed by Valsad district.

Table 11: Distribution of books under book bank scheme to the Scheduled Tribe students in the sample districts

Sample district	Number of beneficiaries		
	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
Vadodara	3230	3250	350
Bharuch	2650	2660	650
Surat	4650	2365	775
Valsad	2400	3800	3000
Panchmahal	4000	2750	3750

Under this scheme, textbooks were supplied by the Textbook Board directly to the District Education Officers, and amount was paid by the education directorate. Hence, district-wise allocation and expenditure figures were not supplied by the concerned district level officers.

In Vadodara district, in the year 1985-86, textbooks were supplied to 3230 students, whereas in the year 1986-87 and 1987-88 textbooks were supplied to 3250 students and 350 students respectively. In Bharuch district, in the year 1985-86 to 1987-88 2650, 2660 and 650 students were benefitted under this scheme respectively. In Surat district in the year 1985-86, textbooks were given to 4650 students while in the Year 1986-87 and 1987-88, 2365 and 775 students were respectively benefitted under this scheme.

In Valsad district, in the year 1985-86 to 1987-88 textbooks were supplied to 2,400 3,800 and 3,000 students respectively, whereas in Fanchamahal district during the year 1985-86 to 1987-88 textbooks were given to 4,000, 2,750 and 3,750 students respectively.

Under this scheme, textbooks supplied to the students in the beginning of the academic year were again collected from the students at the end of academic year and kept in bookbank for the next academic year. In the year 1987-88 less number of textbooks were supplied in three districts, that is, Vadodara, Bharuch and Surat. which clearly indicates the effective functioning of book bank scheme in these districts.

Table 12: Coverage of Scheduled Tribe students under special (VIII-X) scholarship scheme in the sample districts

(Rs. in lakhs *)

Sample district	Allocation			Expenditure			Number of beneficiaries		
	85-86	86-87	87-88	85-86	86-87	87-88	85-86	86-87	87-88
Vadodara	0.17	0.13	0.13	0.17	0.13	0.13	7	49	43
Bharuch	0.04	0.43	0.47	0.04	0.43	0.47	15	16	17
Surat	Not implemented, 0.83 not implemented, 0.6								
Valsad	Nil.	NA	NA	NA	0.10	0.15	NA	39	20
Fanchamahal	0.04	0.47	0.51	0.37	0.47	0.50	14	17	18

Both the allocation and expenditure were more or less same in all the sample districts and the highest number of students got scholarship in Vadodara followed by Velad.

Table 13 : Coverage of mid day meal scheme in the sample districts

(Rs in lakhs)

Sample district	Allocation			Expenditure			Number of beneficiaries		
	85-86	86-87	87-88	85-86	86-87	87-88	85-86	86-87	87-88
Vadodara	206.07	275.00	327.00	206.24	273.52	324.30	1.54	1.34 lakh	1.42 lakh
Bharuch	184.34	229.20	242.00	184.69	229.14	241.32	0.47	0.63 lakh	0.62 lakh
Surat	257.80	347.67	366.18	257.80	347.67	366.18	NA	0.98 lakh	1.05 lakhs
Valsad	216.00	287.00	282.00	216.00	237.00	278.00	1.04	0.95 lakh	1.10 lakhs
Panchmahel	280.00	354.09	459.25	230.80	354.12	557.26	0.66	1.07 lakh	1.19 lakhs

Table 13 shows allocation, expenditure and number of beneficiaries of mid day meals scheme in the sample districts. In Vadodara in the year 1985-86, Rs 206.07 lakhs were allocated and Rs 206.24 lakhs were spent on 1.54 lakhs students. In the year 1986-87 and 1987-88, Rs 275.00 lakhs and Rs 327.00 lakhs were allocated and Rs 273.52 lakhs and Rs 324.30 lakhs were spent on 1.34 lakhs and 1.42 lakhs students respectively. In Bharuch in the year 1985-86, Rs 184.34 lakhs were allocated and

Rs 184.69 lakhs were spent on Rs 0.47 lakhs students. During the year 1986-87 and 1987-88, Rs 229.20 lakhs and Rs 242.01 lakhs were allocated respectively and Rs 229.14 lakhs and Rs 241.32 lakhs were spent on 0.63 lakhs and 0.62 lakhs students respectively.

In Surat in the year 1985-86, Rs 257.80 lakhs were allocated and the same amount were spent. The number of beneficiaries were not available. In the year 1986-87 and 1987-88, Rs 347.67 lakhs and Rs 366.18 lakhs were allocated respectively and the same amount were spent on 0.98 lakhs and 1.05 lakhs beneficiaries respectively.

In Valsad, in the year 1985-86, Rs 216 lakhs were allocated and the same amount were spent on Rs 1.04 lakhs students. In the years 1986-87 and 1987-88, Rs 287 lakhs and Rs 282 lakhs were allocated and Rs 287 lakhs and Rs 278 lakhs were spent on 0.95 lakhs and 1.10 lakhs students.

In Panchmahal district, in the year 1985-86 Rs 280.00 lakhs were allocated and Rs 280.00 lakhs were spent on 0.66 lakhs beneficiaries. During the year 1986-87 and 1987-88 Rs 354.09 lakhs and Rs 459.25 lakhs were allocated respectively and Rs 354.12 lakhs and Rs 557.26 lakhs were spent on 1.07 lakhs and 1.19 lakhs students respectively.

Table 14 : Coverage of Scheduled Tribe students under examination fees scheme in the sample districts (Rs. in lakhs)

Sample districts	1985-86			1986-87			1987-88		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Vadodara	0.72	0.66	17.64	0.72	0.27	884	0.72	0.77	2063
Fharuch	0.52	0.55	1285	0.34	0.75	1949	0.91	0.85	2181
Surat	0.47	0.46	155	0.40	0.35	127	0.35	0.35	119
Valsad	0.26	0.25	598	0.17	0.17	513	0.14	0.23	405
Panchmahal	2.29	2.14	7664	2.22	2.02	5754	0.89	0.84	2252
1 Allocation	2 Expenditure,			3 Number of beneficiaries					

Table 14 shows allocation and expenditure particulars of examination fees

paid by the government to Scheduled Tribe students in the sample districts. This scheme is implemented by both District Social Welfare Officer and District Backward Class Welfare Officer.

In Vadodara, in the year 1985-86, Rs 0.72 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.66 were spent on 1764 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 0.72 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.27 lakhs were spent on 884 beneficiaries. However, in the year 1987-88 Rs 0.72 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.77 lakhs were spent on 2063 beneficiaries.

In Bharuch in the year 1985-86, Rs 0.52 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.55 lakhs were spent on 1285 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87 and 1987-88, Rs 0.84 lakhs and Rs 0.91 lakhs were allocated respectively and Rs 0.75 lakhs and Rs 0.85 lakhs were spent on 1949 and 2181 beneficiaries respectively.

In Surat, in the year 1985-86 Rs 0.47 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.46 were spent on 155 beneficiaries. During the year 1986-87, Rs 0.40 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.35 were spent on 127 beneficiaries whereas in the year 1987-88, Rs 0.35 lakhs were allocated and the same amount were spent on 119 beneficiaries.

In Valsad in the year 1985-86, Rs 0.26 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.25 lakhs were spent on 598 beneficiaries while in the year 1986-87, Rs 0.17 lakhs were allocated and the same amount were spent on 513 beneficiaries. In the year 1987-88, Rs 0.14 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.23 lakhs were spent on 405 beneficiaries.

In Panchmahal, in the year 1985-86, Rs 2.29 lakhs were allocated and Rs 2.14 lakhs were spent on 7664 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 2.22 lakhs were allocated and Rs 2.02 lakhs were spent on 5754 beneficiaries. During the year 1987-88, Rs 0.89 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.84 lakhs were spent on 2252 beneficiaries.

There is a continuous increase in the number of beneficiaries in Bharuch district while Panchmahal district attracted the highest number of beneficiaries.

Table 15 : Coverage of Scheduled Tribe students under tuition fees scheme in the sample districts

Sample district	1985-86			1986-87			1987-88		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Vadodara	4.34	8.70	26,584	3.58	2.57	8,978	3.58	43.88	18,480
Dharu	0.87	1.02	6,255	2.60	0.74	4,032	1.20	0.82	7,630
Surat	0.09	0.09	436	0.11	0.11	269	0.11	0.11	638
Valsad	0.47	0.38	2,947	0.27	0.27	2,282	0.25	0.23	1,925
Panchmahal	6.58	6.45	7,480	8.54	8.93	15,721	2.76	2.63	17,230

1 Allocation, 2 Expenditure, 3 Number of beneficiaries

Table 15 shows allocation and expenditure particulars of the scheme of tuition fees being paid by the government for Scheduled Tribe students studying in schools run by private management.

In Vadodara in the year 1985-86, Rs 4.34 lakhs were allocated and Rs 8.70 lakhs were spent on 26,584 students. In the year 1986-87, Rs 3.58 lakhs were allocated and Rs 2.57 lakhs were spent on 8,978 students. During the year 1987-88, Rs. 3.58 lakhs were allocated and Rs 43.88 lakhs were spent on 18,480 beneficiaries.

In Bharuch Rs 0.87 lakhs were allocated and Rs 1.02 lakhs were spent on 6255 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 2.60 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.74 lakhs were spent on 4032 beneficiaries. In the year 1987-88 Rs 1.20 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.82 lakhs were spent on 7630 beneficiaries.

In Surat, Rs 0.09 lakhs was allocated in the year 1985-86 and the same amount was spent on 436 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87 and 1987-88, Rs 0.11 lakhs each was allocated and the same amount were spent on 269 and 638 beneficiaries respectively.

In Valsad, in the year 1985-86, Rs 0.47 lakhs was allocated and Rs 0.38 lakhs was spent on 2947 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87 Rs 0.27 lakhs was allocated and the same amount was spent on 2282 beneficiaries. During the year 1987-88, Rs 0.25 lakhs was allocated and Rs 0.23 lakhs was spent on 1925 beneficiaries.

In Panchmahal in the year 1985-86, Rs 6.53 lakhs were allocated and Rs 6.45 lakhs were spent on 7480 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 8.94 lakhs were allocated and Rs 8.93 lakhs were spent on 15721 beneficiaries. In the year 1987-88 Rs 2.76 lakhs were allocated and Rs 2.63 lakhs were spent on 17,230 beneficiaries.

Among all the sample districts, Vadodara attracted the highest number of students followed by Panchmahal.

Table 16 : Coverage of Scheduled Tribe students under pre-matric scholarship scheme
(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the district	1985-86			1986-87			1987-88		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Vadodara	7.60	12.04	15,512	11.32	7.69	16,511	11.32	8.59	16,225
Bharuch	8.53	2.39	12,730	9.65	2.46	20,508	8.98	8.09	18,003
Surat	31.53	20.04	31,607	12.33	21.71	38,506	22.92	21.60	45,663
Valsad	14.58	13.76	15,697	34.83	34.87	45,268	32.94	32.92	43,163
Panchmahal	33.74	30.65	18,234	34.68	34.51	36,184	6.63	10.17	6,643
1	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
55	Allocation,	Expenditure	Number of beneficiaries						

Table 16 shows coverage of Scheduled Tribe students under pre-matric scholarship scheme. In Vadodara in the year 1985-86, Rs 7.60 lakhs were allocated and Rs 12.04 lakhs were spent on 15,512 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 11.32 lakhs were allocated and Rs 7.69 spent on 16,511 beneficiaries. In the year 1987-88 Rs 11.32 lakhs were allocated and Rs 8.99 lakhs spent on 16,225 beneficiaries.

In Bharuch in the year 1985-86, Rs 8.53 lakhs were allocated and Rs 2.39 lakhs were spent on 12,730 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 9.65 lakhs were allocated and Rs 2.46 lakhs were spent on 20,508 beneficiaries while in the year 1987-88, Rs 8.98 lakhs were allocated and

Rs 8.09 spent on 18,003 beneficiaries.

In Surat . . . , in the year 1985-86, Rs 31.53 lakhs were allocated and Rs 20.04 lakhs . . . spent on 31,607 beneficiaries. However, during the year 1986-87 and 1987-88, Rs 12.33 and Rs 22.92 lakhs were allocated and Rs 21.71 lakhs and Rs 21.60 lakhs were spent on 32,506 and 45,663 beneficiaries respectively.

In Valsad . . . , in the year 1985-86, Rs 14.58 lakhs were allocated and Rs 13.76 lakhs . . . spent on 19,697 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 34.83 lakhs were allocated and Rs 34.87 lakhs . . . spent on 45,268 beneficiaries and in the year 1987-88, Rs 32.94 were allocated and Rs 32.92 lakhs were spent on 43,163 beneficiaries.

In Panchmahal . . . , Rs 33.74 lakhs were allocated in the year 1985-86 and Rs 30.35 lakhs were spent on 18234 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 34.33 lakhs were allocated and Rs 34.51 lakhs were spent on 36184 beneficiaries. In the year 1987-88, Rs 6.63 lakhs were allocated and Rs 10.17 lakhs were spent on 6643 beneficiaries.

Among all the sample districts, Surat had the highest number of beneficiaries followed by Valsad.

Table 17 : Coverage of Scheduled Tribe students under supply of free books and clothes

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sample district	1985-86			1986-87			1987-88		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Vadodara	0.86	0.79	4,606	0.74	2.27	5,082	0.45	1.61	9,454
Bharuch	0.10	0.10	262	0.07	0.07	189	0.19	0.18	475
Surest	0.25	0.25	1,422	0.20	0.15	797	0.60	0.49	2,274
Valsad	0.40	0.40	1,000	0.30	0.30	931	0.28	0.28	1,662
Pandharnahal	3.05	3.11	7,802	3.36	0.21	423	4.05	3.26	11,315
1 Allocation	2 Expenditure			3 Number of beneficiaries					

Table 17 shows allocation and expenditure figures on free supply of books and clothes to the Scheduled Tribes students. In Vadodara district in the year 1985-86, Rs 0.86 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.79 lakhs were spent on 4,606 beneficiaries. For the year 1986-87, Rs 0.74 lakhs were allocated and Rs 2.27 lakhs were spent on 5,082 beneficiaries. For the year 1987-88, Rs 0.45 lakhs were allocated and Rs 1.61 lakhs were spent on 9,454 beneficiaries.

In Bharuch district, during the year 1985-86, Rs 0.10 lakhs were allocated and the same amount was spent on 262 beneficiaries. Whereas in the year 1986-87,

Rs 0.07 lakhs were allocated and the same amount were spent on 189 beneficiaries. For the year 1987-88, Rs 0.19 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.18 lakhs were spent on 475 beneficiaries.

In Surat district, in the year 1985-86, Rs 0.25 lakhs were allocated and the same amount were spent on 1322 beneficiaries. For the year 1986-87, Rs 0.20 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.15 lakhs were spent on 797 beneficiaries. In the year 1987-88, Rs 0.60 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.49 lakhs were spent on 2,274 beneficiaries.

In Valsad district, for the year 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88, Rs 0.40, Rs 0.30 and Rs 0.28 lakhs were allocated respectively and the same amount were spent on 1,000, 931 and 1,662 beneficiaries.

In Panchmahal district, in the year 1985-86, Rs 3.05 lakhs were allocated and Rs 3.11 lakhs were spent on 7,802 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 3.86 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.21 lakhs were spent on 423 beneficiaries. For the year 1987-88, Rs 4.05 lakhs were allocated and Rs 3.26 were spent on 11,315 beneficiaries.

There is a continuous increase in the number of beneficiaries in Vadodara district but Panchmahal attracted the highest number of beneficiaries.

Table 18 : Coverage of Scheduled Tribe students at primary level under special scholarship scheme

(Rs in lakhs)

Name of the district	1985-86			1986-87			1987-88		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Vaidohara	Not implemented								
Bharuch	2.90	2.23	1,621	3.75	2.60	1,922	7.80	7.53	21,524
Surat	4.90	4.89	4,407	13.00	15.14	12,362	32.15	32.14	23,854
Valead	3.96	3.94	1,564	5.25	5.21	2,936	61.06	61.05	30,587
Pandhanahal	0.75	0.028	6	0.01	0.01	5	0.31	0.02	163

Table 18 shows allocation and expenditure figures on special scholarship for the students studying in classes I-VI. The scheme is not implemented in Vaidohara district. In Bharuch district, for the year 1985-86, Rs 2.50 lakhs were allocated and Rs 2.23 lakhs were spent on 1,621 beneficiaries. For the year 1986-87, Rs 3.75 lakhs were allocated and Rs 2.60 lakhs were spent on 1,922 beneficiaries. For the year 1987-88 Rs 7.53 lakhs were allocated and Rs 7.53 lakhs were spent on 21,524 beneficiaries. In Surat district, Rs 4.90 lakhs were allocated in the year 1985-86 and Rs 4.89 lakhs were spent on 4,407 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 13.00 lakhs were allocated and Rs 15.14 lakhs were spent on 12,362 beneficiaries. In the year 1987-88, Rs 32.15 lakhs were allocated and Rs 32.14 lakhs were spent on 23,854 beneficiaries. In Valead district, Rs 3.96 lakhs were allocated in the year 1985-86 and Rs 3.94 lakhs were spent on 1,564 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 5.25 lakhs were allocated and Rs 5.21 lakhs were spent on 2,936 beneficiaries. In Pandhanahal district, Rs 0.75 lakhs were allocated in the year 1985-86 and Rs 0.028 lakhs were spent on 6 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 0.01 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.01 lakhs were spent on 5 beneficiaries. In the year 1987-88, Rs 0.31 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.02 lakhs were spent on 163 beneficiaries.

the year 1987-87, Rs 32.15 lakhs were allocated and Rs 32.14 lakhs were spent on 23,854 beneficiaries.

In Valsad district, Rs 3.96 lakhs were allocated in the year 1985-86 and Rs 3.94 lakhs were spent on 1,564 beneficiaries. For the year 1986-87, Rs 5.25 lakhs were allocated and Rs 5.21 lakhs were spent on 2,936 beneficiaries. For the year 1987-88, Rs 61.06 lakhs were allocated and Rs 61.05 lakhs were spent on 30,580 beneficiaries.

In Panchmahal district, in the year 1985-86, Rs 0.05 lakhs were allocated and Rs 850 were spent on 6 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 0.01 lakhs were allocated and the same amount were spent on 5 beneficiaries. For the year 1987-88, Rs 0.31 lakhs were allocated and Rs 1,630 were spent on 163 beneficiaries.

Table 19 : Coverage of scheduled Tribe students at secondary level under special scholarship scheme (in lakhs)

Name of the district	1985-86			1986-87			1987-88		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Vedodara	2.35	1.79	1,211	1.81	2.35	1,739	2.02	3.04	4,318
Eharuch	2.48	1.29	720	2.81	11.08	6,108	13.12	13.30	7,122
Surat	0.75	0.60	373	0.52	0.31	164	0.65	0.44	292
Valsad	2.37	1.85	956	1.95	1.78	773	1.98	2.79	1,166
Panchmahal	Not implemented								

Table 19 shows year-wise allocation and expenditure in sample district for special scholarship for the students studying in classes VIII-X. In Vadodera district in the year 1985-86, Rs 2.35 lakhs were allocated and Rs 1.79 lakhs were spent on 1211 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 1.81 lakhs were allocated and Rs 2.35 lakhs were spent on 1739 beneficiaries. In the year 1987-88, Rs 2.02 lakhs were allocated and Rs 3.04 lakhs were spent on 4318 beneficiaries.

In Bharuch district, for the year 1985-86, Rs 2.48 lakhs were allocated and Rs 1.29 lakhs were spent on 720 beneficiaries. While in the year 1986-87, Rs 2.87 lakhs were allocated and Rs 11.08 lakhs were spent on 6108 beneficiaries. For the year 1987-88, Rs 13.12 lakhs were allocated and Rs 13.30 lakhs were spent on 7122 beneficiaries.

In Surat district, Rs 0.75 lakhs were allocated for the year 1985-86 and Rs 0.60 lakhs were spent on 373 beneficiaries. During the year 1986-87, Rs 0.52 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.31 lakhs were spent on 164 beneficiaries. For the year 1987-88 Rs 0.65 lakhs were allocated and Rs 0.44 lakhs were spent on 242 beneficiaries.

In Valsad district, in the year 1985-86, Rs 2.37 lakhs were allocated and Rs 1.85 lakhs were spent on 956 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs 1.95 lakhs were allocated and Rs 1.78 lakhs were spent on 773 beneficiaries whereas for the year

1987-88, Rs 1.98 lakhs were allocated and 2.74 lakhs were spent on 1166 beneficiaries.

The scheme was not implemented in the Panchmahal district hence no figures are available.

Among all the sample districts Bharuch attracted the highest number of beneficiaries in the year 1987 and 1988.

Frequency of disbursement

The disbursement made in number of instalments is regarded as the frequency of disbursement.

According to the responses of headmasters and students, scholarship is given once in a year. Earlier there is no fixed date for its disbursement. But from this academic year onwards, government has decided to disburse scholarships in the month of August/September every year.

Chapter Two

STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS OF THE SCHEME

A number of schemes were started by the Gujarat Government to provide financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students studying in various schools run by the government, local bodies and voluntary organizations.

An attempt has been made here to discuss about the strength and weaknesses of the schemes. Financial assistance is given in both cash and kind. Assistance in kind includes uniforms, textbooks and mid day meal. Assistance in cash includes pre-matric scholarship, opportunity cost to the most backward communities and special scholarship to Scheduled Tribe students. In order to improve the quality of education, a new scheme was introduced by the government to conduct classes for these students studying at primary and secondary level. Book bank scheme was introduced at secondary level to supply books to the students and also to develop school libraries. In addition to these benefits, a number of ashram schools were started by various voluntary organisations to provide boarding and lodging for Scheduled Tribe students to prosecute their studies successfully.

Majority of these schemes were implemented by the welfare department. A few schemes were also started by the education department recently to increase enrolment of Scheduled Tribe students. Statistical figures reveals that a large number of students were benefitted by these schemes, but in practice all students did not get scholarship because of multiple criterion to be fulfilled by the students to get scholarship under of each scheme. To get the scholarship student has to cross through many stages. Parent's annual income and students performance in the examinations were taken into consideration for the eligibility. Recently, Government of Gujarat has passed government^{an} order to remove parents income as criteria for eligibility.

From this academic year that is, 1989-90, welfare department started giving money instead of supplying uniforms to the students. District level officers stated that they received complaints from parents regarding the size of the uniforms, which resulted to take above decision by the government.

Mid day meals were provided to the students studying in primary schools run by government, local bodies and Panchayats. According to the Fifth All India Survey, 88.94 per cent of students were enrolled in primary schools run by government and these figures indicate approximate number of students benefitted under the mid day meals scheme.

- 65 -

Scholarships were also provided to the students studying in ashram schools in addition to their hostel charges. Scheduled Tribe students residing in hostels get 50 per cent amount in case if they are eligible for merit scholarships.

Government is providing Rs 150 per month per boarder to these students residing in ashram schools to meet boarding and lodging charges. In case of students belong to **primitive** tribal group, the rate of scholarship is Rs 200 per month per student. In each ashram school maximum 120 students are accommodated.

Every year government releases grant in two or three instalments to voluntary organizations at the rate of Rs 150 per month per boarder to a maximum number of 120 students to maintain these schools. The expenditure of diet, cosmetics and bedding material supplied to the students comes under this scholarship.

A lot of misutilization of funds was noticed in majority of the ashrama schools run by such organisations in the sample districts. Food supplied to the students was not sufficient and also of less nutritive value. The prescribed menu chart given by the welfare department was not followed strictly. In some ashram schools instead of serving one roti per students, half piece of roti was given to the

students and some students even did not get this half piece also.

Delay at different levels

The successful implementation of any scheme depends on avoidance delay at different levels.

In Gujarat state schools are under education department, whereas incentive schemes were implemented by the welfare department. The state level officers expressed that there was no delay in planning and execution of these scheme, whereas district level officers, especially, social welfare officers and backward class welfare officers stated that as schools are not directly under their control, hence they have to depend on headmasters for getting student's information. They are also stated that either District Primary Education Officer or District Education Officer do not even extend any cooperation in this regard. Due to this lack of co-ordination between education and welfare department, delay was taking place in disbursement of scholarships.

As stated earlier, the district social welfare officer is under control of District Zilla Panchayat and Welfare Department release grants in the name of Zilla Panchayat, and Zilla Panchayat in turn release this amount in three instalments. Zilla Panchayat, releases 40 per cent of grant

out of the total grant as first instalment in the month of May or June. Again 40 per cent of amount will be released in the month of August as second instalment and the remaining 30 per cent of grant will be released as third instalment in the month December or January. Because of this instalment-wise release of grants from zilla panchayat disbursement of scholarship was delayed in the schools.

Table 20 : Delay of disbursement of scholarship

N = 15

Duration of delay	Headmasters	
	Number of responses	Percentage
Three months	7	47.00
Six months	5	33.00
One year	3	20.00

The above table shows responses of the headmasters regarding delay of disbursement of scholarships. Out of the 15 headmasters interviewed, 47 per cent told that the delay was upto three months, 33 per cent revealed the view that it was upto six months and 20 per cent stated that it was upto one year.

The above response of headmasters regarding delay of disbursement of scholarship reveals that delay was by and large upto six months.

After receiving cheque or cash from the state bank or pay schools, headmaster immediately distribute money to the students. Beneficiaries and parents were not aware of the official procedures in execution of these schemes hence all the parents and beneficiaries interviewed stated that there was no delay in disbursement of scholarship. This is because after receiving amount, headmaster immediately disburse it to the students.

Headmasters were interviewed for causes of delay and their views of delay was as follows.

Table 21 : Cause of delay in disbursement of financial assistance

N = 15

Cause of delay	Number of response	Percentage
Grant is not available	2	13.33
Could not get information from the authorities	1	6.67
Not aware of exact causes for delay	12	80.00

Many headmasters of the sample schools were not aware of the reasons for delay in disbursement of scholarship. Out of the 15 headmasters interviewed, 13.33 per cent told that non-availability of grants is the cause of delay. 6.67 per cent stated that they could not get information from the authorities at the time which also

delays in submitting students information to the concerned offices at the district level. This in turn leads to delay in disbursement of scholarship.

Headmasters were also interviewed to find out problems faced by them in getting sanctioned amount from the concerned authorities. Out of the 15 headmasters interviewed, 93.3 per cent stated that they did not face any problems from the authorities in getting amount. However, 6.7 per cent told that they have to approach concerned offices at block level to get early sanction.

In practice, headmaster prepared student's information and sent to the concerned officers at block or district level, after receiving circulars from the concerned department. Sometimes, if there were any mistakes in the lists prepared by the headmasters, then concerned officers at block level or district level call headmaster to rectify these mistakes. After completing entire process, district level officers send selected candidates list to the headmaster and ask him to collect the amount from the State Bank. In this process, headmaster's role is very less and he need not approach any officer until he receives information from education department.

Non-payment of scholarships

There were instances of non-payment of scholarship. Such cases were noticed in one sample Ashram school situated in Dediapada taluk of Bharuch district.

Scheduled Tribe students studying in this school interviewed regarding the payment of scholarships and our investigations revealed that scholarships were not paid by the management since last three years. And headmaster himself wrote parents in the scholarship payment Register without making payments.

Chapter Three

UTILIZATION OF PRE-METRIC SCHOLARSHIP

The success of any scheme of financial assistance depends upon its utilization. Allocation of funds itself is not enough unless it is properly utilized. An attempt has been made in the present chapter to study the different patterns of utilization of the amount of financial assistance given to the Scheduled Tribe students.

According to the objectives of various schemes implemented by the welfare and education department, amount should reach to the beneficiaries intime and they were expected to spend the same on education. But in practice it is not utilized for the purpose for which it is meant. The following table shows the views of the headmasters about the purpose of financial assistance given to the Scheduled Tribe students.

Table 22 : Purpose of awarding the scholarship

N = 30

Purpose	Number of responses	Percentage
To achieve the universalization to education	4	26.67
To help economically and socially disadvantaged groups	9	60.00
To meet the cost of education	7	46.67
To attract children towards education	4	26.67
By virtue of their belonging to Scheduled Tribe	7	46.67

Majority of the headmasters gave more than one response. 60 per cent told that it is given to help the economically and socially disadvantaged groups. 46.67 per cent stated that it is given to meet the cost of education and same per cent told that it is given to the students who belong to Scheduled Tribe community. 26.67 per cent stated that the purpose of giving financial assistance is to achieve the universalization of elementary education and the same per cent stated that it is given to meet the cost of education.

The above views of headmasters clearly indicate the purpose of the spending the amount of financial assistance.

The purpose of any scheme will be fulfilled when the amount is utilized properly by the beneficiaries. Out of 15 headmasters interviewed, 33.33 per cent stated that amount was not utilized by the beneficiaries and 66.67 per cent told that amount was utilized by the beneficiaries properly.

The following views of the headmaster reveals on what items the utilization was made.

Table 23 : Utilization of financial assistance

N = 10

Items of utilization	Number of responses	Percentage
On purchasing books and stationary	6	60.0
Utilized for making clothes	1	10.0
By handing over to the parents	3	30.0

60 per cent of headmasters stated that the amount given to the beneficiaries was spent on purchasing books and stationery and 10 per cent stated that it was spent on making clothes. However, 30 per cent of headmasters stated that they handed over to the parents. Majority of the headmasters stated that parents usually spend the amount on household purposes. Headmasters also stated that on the same day parents utilize this amount for consuming alcoholic drinks.

The beneficiaries were also interviewed to know their views about the utilization of the amount and their views are given below.

Table 24 : Utilization of Financial assistance

N = 24

Items of utilization	Number of responses	Percentage
Utilized for educational purposes	14	58.33
Handover to parents	6	25.00
Utilized for making clothes and fashionable items	4	16.67

The beneficiaries were given more than one response. Out of the 24 beneficiaries, 58.33 per cent said that they utilized this amount for educational purposes, that is, purchase slates, books and pencil etc. Whereas 25 per cent stated that it was handed over to the parents. 16.67 per cent stated that it was utilized for making clothes.

Even though above responses were given by the beneficiaries in sample schools, in practice due to delay in disbursing the scholarship amount, many beneficiaries stated that it was handed over to the parents and they utilized for household purposes and some times beneficiaries utilize this amount to meet the bus fares whenever he visits his home.

There were no prescribed rules on which the amount of financial assistance was to be spent by students. Hence it is difficult to say whether it is properly utilized. It

is a common understanding that the amount of financial assistance is meant for educational needs only, but in practice it is spent on many items of non-educational purposes.

An attempt has also been made in this study to enquire about the adequacy of financial assistance. All the 15 headmasters interviewed in the sample schools stated that the amount given to the students is not adequate. Parents and students also expressed the same opinion. They also stated that they distribute this amount at the end of academic year hence they spent it on other purposes. Many parents also revealed that the amount of Rs 40 is nothing in the present day price of cost and even this amount is not enough to make one pair of uniform.

Misutilization

The term misutilization in the present context denotes the utilization of amount for the purposes other than those for which it is meant. The amount is usually misutilized by the beneficiaries in many instance than the executors of the scheme.

Many officers were also aware of this misutilization but they stated that they do not have any powers to take action on the beneficiaries.

Out of 15 headmasters, 20 per cent of headmasters stated that they handover to the parents and parents in turn spend this amount on household purposes. As discussed earlier in table 24, 25 per cent of beneficiaries stated that they handover amount to the parents, whereas 16.67 per cent stated that they utilize this amount for purchasing clothes and fashionable items.

A number of headmasters, beneficiaries and the parents were interviewed to find out various causes of misutilization of financial assistance. The main reason for misutilization was delay in disbursement of scholarship, lack of follow up action and supervision are main reasons for misutilization. ^{also} And lack of awareness, poverty are some of the reasons for misutilization as expressed by the District Level Officers and headmasters.

Regarding non-utilization is concern, in majority of the schemes, major share was utilized. However, in some schemes the allotted amount was not utilized fully as there are many criteria to award scholarship under each scheme due to lack of qualified students.

Chapter Four

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Government of Gujarat is providing financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students studying at primary and secondary level to meet their educational expenditure and to improve the quality of education, enrolment and to reduce drop-out.

The schemes of financial assistance was introduced by welfare and education departments. The schemes implemented by the welfare department covers more number of students than the schemes run by other departments.

An attempt has been made in this study to review the various schemes implemented by these departments and to suggest remedial measures to strengthen the schemes.

The following are the major findings of the study:

Policy and purpose The main objective of the scheme of financial assistance is to promote education among the Scheduled Tribes and to increase literacy among them. It is also stated that financial assistance helps the students to meet education expenses and thereby reduces burden on parents. It is also emphasised that the purpose of these schemes is to attract more children to school and also to reduce the drop-out rate.

Schemes In the state of Gujarat various schemes of financial assistance^{are} provided by both education and welfare departments. Both cash and kind are given to the students at primary and secondary level, but much emphasis is laid on cash incentives than in kind. Majority of these schemes are in respect of the students belonging to the most backward communities of the state.

Merit scholarship schemes are introduced both at primary and secondary stages to raise standard of education among students belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes. Incentives like free supply of uniform, textbooks, not books, slate and pens etc. have also been provided to attract more number of students at primary level. A special scholarship scheme exclusively for girl students has been introduced at primary level to increase enrolment of girl students.

Criteria The major criteria for the award of merit scholarship was^{the} student should belong to the Scheduled Tribe and he must get minimum percentage of marks, in the annual examination as fixed by the Government of Gujarat. A minimum of 70 per cent of attendance and his performance in the school would be taken into consideration for the award of scholarship. All the merit scholarships would be given to those students who continue their studies. Earlier, parents' income was also

taken into consideration while awarding scholarship but from this academic year onwards this condition has been dropped.

Schemes introduced by education department were implemented by District Education Officer at district level.

Similarly, schemes introduced by the welfare department for the welfare of backward communities were implemented by both District Social Welfare Officer and District Backward Class Welfare Offices at district level. Majority of the officers at district level stated that there is no separate staff to look after these schemes which delays disbursement of financial assistance.

As merit is taken into consideration for awarding scholarship, majority of headmasters stated that some parents lodged complaints against them for not awarding scholarship to their children. This clearly indicates that they were not satisfied with the above criteria. Parents also stated that all students should get scholarships to pursue their education.

Disbursement and delay There was no fixed date for disbursement of scholarship but from the current academic year the government have taken a decision to disburse financial assistance before the month of September. Majority of social welfare and Backward Class Welfare Officers stated that the main reason for delay was non receipt of information from the headmaster in time. Another reason for delay was lack of

coordination between education department and welfare department at district level as revealed by the majority of officer respondents.

In this study it is also noticed that a lengthy official procedure is involved in sanctioning the scholarship which is one of the main reasons for delay in the disbursement of scholarship. Office staff is not sufficient at district level to clear the decks was also one of the reason for delay as stated by many officers.

Utilization and misutilization

Majority of officers respondents and headmasters expressed the view that the amount of financial assistance given to the students is utilized mostly on education, but a few of them also stated that it is not utilized on education. There are no prescribed rules as to how the amount should be spent. The majority of parents and headmasters stated that it is not utilized properly, due to delay in disbursement of scholarship.

Non payment of scholarships

Instances of non-payment of scholarships have also been noticed in this study. This is due to lack of proper monitoring and supervision of headmasters and concerned officials.

strength and weaknesses of the scheme

Schemes of various financial assistance were implemented both by welfare department and education department. Merit scholarships were introduced by these departments to cover more number of students, but majority of the students could not get scholarship because of too many conditions to be fulfilled by the students to get a scholarship. Hence, the impact of these schemes on both parents and students is less.

Extent of financial assistance

The financial assistance was provided to large number of students.

Recommendations

There are some defects and lacunae in implementing these schemes which the state should rectify. The following recommendations are made for this purpose.

The Government of Gujarat, should provide more incentives in kind to attract students at primary level. Incentives in kind also helps the students to serve their purpose which either parents or students do not misutilize.

All schemes should be implemented either by welfare or education department are not by both the departments. Additional staff should be provided at district level to disburse scholarship/incentives at the beginning of the academic year.

The rate of scholarship should be increased to meet the rising cost of expenditure on education. In order to disburse scholarships early, official procedures may be simplified and strengthened.

A special incentive schemes exclusively for girls should be provided both at primary and secondary level. Coverage of students under mid day meal scheme may increased.

Lastly, a separate agency may be established at district level to supervise and follow up the schemes.

RAJASTHAN

Chapter One

SCHEMES OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A brief note on the financial assistance

The constitution envisages special programmes to accelerate the pace of socio-economic development of special groups of Indian population like the Scheduled Tribes. The Government of Rajasthan have tried to reach this goal through five year plans by allocating adequate funds.

Education- both formal as well as non-formal- is one of the important agencies of social change. More so among the Scheduled Tribes who are relatively isolated from the main stream of the Indian society. Education exposes them to the outside world. It provides an opportunity to know about others and outside their own village. This is the pre-requisite for social transformation in a welfare state. Education also provides opportunity to them to enter the non-agricultural sector for earning their livelihood. The present study was initiated to know the education system and the financial assistance available for the tribal students at the pre-matric level. The study was conducted in five districts viz., Banswara, Dungarpur, Jaipur, Sawai Madhopur and Udaipur.

The date of reference of these data is March 1989.

The Government of Rajasthan have initiated schemes both in cash and kind to the Scheduled Tribe students. These incentives include general scholarship, hostel facility, free books, stationery, uniforms and special scholarship. Among the existing schemes, free textbooks, stationery and uniforms are given to the primary school students (class I-V). The remaining financial assistance is meant for secondary school students studying in classes VI to X.

General scholarship scheme

This scholarship is awarded to Scheduled Tribe students who study in the government recognised educational institutions. The rate of scholarship is different from stage to stage and also for girls and boys. In classes VI to VII girl students get Rs.20 and boys get Rs.15 per month. In high schools the rate of scholarship is for boys Rs.30 and for girls Rs.40 per month. To award this scholarship the headmaster of the institution, Deputy District Education Officer, Additional District Education Officer and Education Officer are the sanctioning authority.

The duration of the scholarship is for 10 months. According to director of Education(primary and secondary) payment should be made monthly to the awardees.

Special scholarship scheme

This scheme is awarded to the students who study in highly reputed educational institutions of the state. This scheme has been started since 1962-63. The students who study in such institutions get both boarding and lodging facilities. The total expenditure on such students is from 5,000 to 6,000 per year per student, specific mention was not made in any document provided by the concerned officials. To be eligible for this scholarship the students are required to get more than 55 per cent marks. The selection of the awardees is made on the basis of merit and the recommendations of the selection committee. The renewal of scholarship is made on the basis of students' performance for the academic year. Also he should get atleast 50 per cent marks in the previous class. All the students who get more than 55 per cent marks do not get the scholarship but the students who get highest marks are awarded the financial assistance.

Hostel facility

Hostel facility is provided by the Social Welfare Department. There are separate hostels for boy and girl students. The rate of scholarship for boys and girls is the same in the hostels. The amount for classes VI to X is Rs.145 per month.

The hostel is managed by the District Social Welfare Officer who is overall incharge of the hostels. Each hostel has a superintendent who looks after the hostel affairs. The amount allowed is spent on food items, consisting of roti, rice, one vegetable and dal. The hostel is also supposed to supply washing and bathing soap, but in practice, they are not provided to the students because of lack of adequate funds, as expressed by the wardens.

Textbooks, stationery and uniforms

The scheme is meant for the Scheduled Tribe students who study in other than tribal areas. These schools are run by the Zila Parishad, whereas the primary schools located in urban areas are managed by the Director of Education. These schools do not have any incentive in cash scheme offered to Scheduled Tribe students. The incentives in kind are uniform, textbook and stationery. The incentive is distributed to the awardees by the head of the concerned institution under the overall supervision of the Secretary, Zila Parishad.

Procedure of applying for financial assistance

For awarding of financial assistance to the eligible Scheduled Tribe students the Government of Rajasthan has made a set of rules and regulations. The students have to

apply in a prescribed proforma. The headmasters of the concerned institutions forward the application to the District Education Officer for sanction. The headmasters of primary, middle and high schools of the sample districts were interviewed to know the procedure of awarding the financial assistance. 15 headmasters were interviewed from the five sample districts. 10 (66.7 per cent) of the headmasters told that the students studying in schools get financial assistance, whereas five (33.3 per cent) headmasters told that the students studying in schools get incentive in kind.

The opinion of the headmasters regarding the procedure for awarding financial assistance is given below.

Table 1 : Method of applying for pre-matric scholarship

N = 15

Responses	Number of responses	Percentage
The students apply in an appropriate proforma	10	66.7
The students' names are sent to the panchayat office	5	33.3

The table given above indicates the method of getting scholarship. 66.7 per cent of headmasters told that the students apply in appropriate proforma and 33.3 per cent of them expressed the view that the application is sent

to the district panchayat office.

Policy behind pre-matric scholarship

The major policy of the Government of Rajasthan is to provide education to the backward sections of the people in the state. The government has introduced various incentive schemes. The idea behind the schemes is to encourage them to attend schools. Further the headmasters were enquired about the purpose of the scholarship.

Table 2 : Purpose of awarding scholarship

N = 15

Nature of responses	Number of responses	Percentage
To help the economically and socially disadvantaged groups	8	53.3
To attract the children towards education	6	40.0
To help those belonging to the Scheduled Tribes	1	6.7

'53.3 per cent of the headmasters told that the incentives were to help the socially and economically disadvantaged groups. 40 per cent expressed the view that the incentives were given to attract the children towards education and only 6.7 per cent said that it were given exclusively to students belonging ^{to} Scheduled Tribes.

The above discussion shows that the major thrust is to help economically and socially disadvantaged groups of people.

Machinery and mode of disbursement

For sanction and award of scholarship both the schemes of incentives in cash and kind are looked after by the Director of Social Welfare and the Director of Education (primary and secondary) at the state level.

At the district level there is no special machinery to disburse the financial assistance. Under the over-all supervision of District Education Officer, Deputy Education Officer (Account) looks after the work. There is a District Social Welfare Officer at the district level who attends to the hostel work. The Secretary, Zila Parishad looks after the incentives in kind.

The flow of financial assistance is from the Social Welfare Department to the District Education Officer and then to Education Officer.

The amount is sent on the basis of the amount spent during the last academic session with an additional amount of 2 per cent more than what was spent during the previous year. All the district education officers receive the budget for the current session, the amount is delivered by

cheques which is transferred to the headmasters who encash the cheques and disburse the amount to the students.

Out of 12 headmasters interviewed, 83.3 per cent of them expressed the view that the money comes from the district education office and 16.7 per cent of them told that the textbooks, stationery and uniforms come from the District Panchayat Office. Regarding timely disbursement of scholarship it was informed that disbursement of financial assistance takes place immediately after receiving the cash, whereas, in practice, it is not like that as reported by the officials concerned. Both the incentives in cash and kind are not disbursed to all the students because the headmasters face some problems in disbursement. It requires the presence of the parents. As reported by the headmasters many of the parents do not come to school on the date of disbursement. Hence the distribution of financial assistance is delayed and it also hampers their class room work. The headmasters further told that if they handover the money to the students, their parents come after some time and demand the scholarship amount. In such cases the students spend the amount as they like. Afterwards the parents blame the headmasters for misutilization of the scholarship

amount by the student. Many of the headmasters do not want to create such problem, hence they keep on waiting till the parents visit the school.

Extent of financial assistance

Financial assistance is provided to all the Scheduled Tribe students of classes from VI to X. Scheme-wise coverage at state level¹ is discussed below.

Table 3 : Allocation, expenditure and number of beneficiaries of pre-matric scholarship scheme at state level

(Rs.in lakhs)			
Years	Allocation	Expenditure	Number of beneficiaries
1985-86	573.31	537.77	3,27,694
1986-87	574.39	573.36	3,74,724
1987-88	691.71	656.33	4,12,677

In the year 1985-86 the allocation was Rs.573.31 lakhs, in the year 1986-87 it was 574.39 lakhs and in 1987-88 it was Rs.691.71 lakhs. The figures of expenditure against allocation for the above given years are Rs.537.77 lakhs, 573.36 lakhs and 656.33 lakhs respectively. The number of beneficiaries were 3,27,694, 3,74,724 and

¹ Allocation, expenditure and number of beneficiaries are both for Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Castes because no separate figures were available.

4,12,677 during the above said years. It is seen that the number of increased gradually.

Table 4 : Statement showing allocation, expenditure and number of beneficiaries on incentive scheme

(Rs.in lakhs)

Name of the incentive	Allocation			Expenditure			Number of beneficiaries		
	85-86	86-87	87-88	85-86	86-87	87-88	85-86	86-87	87-88
Special scholarship scheme	NA	NA	26.28	NA	NA	22.42	NA	NA	389
Free books and stationery	21.60	21.60	21.60	NA	NA	NA	38,200	38,200	38,200
Free uniforms	54.80	54.80	54.80	NA	NA	NA	38,200	38,200	38,200

During the year 1987-88 the expenditure on special scholarship scheme was Rs.22.42 lakhs as against the allocation of Rs.26.23 lakhs. Thus the expenditure was less than the allocation. The number of beneficiaries in the Year 1987-88 was 389. However, the figures of expenditure on free books, stationery and free uniforms were not available. Only allocation figures were available. From the table given above it is seen that the allocation was constant, that is, Rs.21.60 lakhs during all the three years. The number of beneficiaries was also constant in

every year which was 38,200. In the same way the allocation on uniforms was constant in every year which was Rs.54.80 lakhs and number of beneficiaries was also constant which was 38,200.

Table 5 : District-wise allocation, expenditure and number of beneficiaries of the pre-metric scholarship scheme

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the district	Allocation			Expenditure			Number of beneficiaries		
	85-86	86-87	87-88	85-86	86-87	87-88	85-86	86-87	87-88
Banswara	17.72	15.65	20.87	17.72	15.65	20.87	8,082	8,727	10,770
Dungarpur	15.10	15.12	17.77	14.77	15.11	17.41	8,158	8,110	9,275
Jaipur	35.44	31.29	45.71	33.42	31.29	42.24	17,937	16,376	21,847
Sawai-Madhopur	40.71	44.16	42.82	40.71	44.16	42.77	20,815	23,713	20,571
Udaipur	17.47	12.99	21.28	13.83	10.48	17.27	8,991	8,256	11,827

In Banswara district the allocation for the year 1985-86 was Rs.17.72 lakhs, for the year 1986-87 Rs.15.65 lakhs and for the year 1987-88 Rs.20.87 lakhs and almost all the entire amount was spent on 8,082, 8,727 and 10,770 beneficiaries respectively.

In Dungarpur district the allocation for the year 1985-86 was Rs.15.10 lakhs, for the year 1986-87 it was Rs.15.12 lakhs and for the year 1987-88 it was Rs.17.77

lakhs against, the expenditure, during the same years, of Rs.14.77 lakhs, Rs.15.11 lakhs and Rs.17.41 lakhs on 8,158, 8,110 and 9,275 beneficiaries respectively.

In Jaipur district the allocation for the year 1985-86 was Rs.35.44 lakhs, in the year 1986-87 Rs.31.29 lakhs and Rs.45.71 lakhs in the year of 1987-88. Against the allocation the expenditure figures for the respective years was Rs.33.42 lakhs, Rs.31.29 lakhs and Rs.42.24 lakhs, on 17,937, 16,376 and 21,847 beneficiaries respectively.

In Sawai Madhopur district the allocation for the year 1985-86 was Rs.40.71 lakhs, as against this the expenditure was the same on 20,815 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87 allocation was Rs.44.16 lakhs, the same amount was spent on 23,713 beneficiaries, and for the year 1987-88, the allocation was Rs.42.82 lakhs and the expenditure was Rs.42.77 lakhs on 20,571 beneficiaries.

In Udaipur district, the allocation for the year 1985-86 was Rs.17.47 lakhs, for the year 1986-87 Rs.12.99 lakhs and for the year 1987-88 Rs.21.28 lakhs. As against the allocation, the expenditure was Rs.13.83 lakhs, 10.48 lakhs and 17.27 lakhs on 8,991, 8,256 and 11,827 beneficiaries respectively.

It is concluded that among the sample districts Sawai Madhopur received the highest amount in the year 1985-86 and 1986-87. But in the year of 1987-88 Jaipur received the highest amount,

Chapter Two

STRENGTH AND WEAKNESSES OF THE SCHEME AND DELAY IN DISBURSEMENT OF PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Strength and weaknesses of the scheme

Financial assistance is given in both cash and kind. Incentives in kind include textbooks, stationery and uniforms.

The government provides the incentives in kind through district panchayats only for the rural primary schools. Students of urban primary schools do not get any incentive. Textbooks and uniforms are provided once in a year to a few students only.

Hostel facility is not available to all the students. It is provided to the students who secure merit position in the last annual examination.

Regarding the strength and weaknesses of the scheme teachers views were as follows. As far as the incentives in cash are concerned government provides to almost all the Scheduled Caste students from class VI to X. But the amount is very meagre to meet their educational needs. Regarding the adequacy of the amount all the headmasters were interviewed.

Table 6 : Adequacy of the scholarship to meet the needs
of the students

N = 15

Responses	Number of beneficiaries	Percentage
Adequate	2	13.33
Not adequate	8	53.33
Can not say	5	33.34

The table above shows that 13.33 per cent headmasters told that the financial assistance which the student get was adequate. 53.33 per cent opined that the assistance was inadequate. 33.34 per cent told that they can not say about its adequacy or inadequacy. Thus, majority of the headmasters told that the scholarship which the students get was inadequate.

The beneficiaries were also interviewed about the adequacy of financial assistance. Cent per cent of them opined that the scholarship which they get was inadequate.

The headmasters were interviewed with regard to the performance of the beneficiaries after receiving the financial assistance. Out of 15 headmasters interviewed 12, (80.0 per cent) told that there is an effect of financial assistance on enrolment and attendance of the

students. 3 (20.0 per cent) told that the performance in terms of enrolment of the students was not satisfactory. Almost all the headmasters interviewed said that the amount was meagre and payment irregular.

The amount of scholarship was not sufficient to meet the students' requirements. Regarding the adequacy of the amount the beneficiaries responses are as follows;

Table 7 : Adequacy of financial assistance as seen by the beneficiaries

N = 33

Responses	Number of beneficiaries	Percentage
Adequate	5	15.2
Not adequate	20	60.6
No response	8	24.2

Out of 33 beneficiaries interviewed 15.2 per cent said that whatever amount they get is sufficient to meet their educational needs. 60.6 per cent expressed that the amount is not adequate to meet their educational needs. However, 24.2 per cent did not respond to the question.

Delay at different levels in disbursement of financial assistance

Delay is a usual phenomenon in all the spheres of public life now-a-days. Disbursement of financial assistance to the pre-matric students is no exception. The delay is not only at the planning and execution levels but also of all the levels of the schemes of financial assistance as a whole.

Regarding the delay in disbursement of the award of scholarship the headmasters, the beneficiaries and their parents of sample districts were interviewed. Out of 15 headmasters interviewed, one said that at his primary school there was no incentive which reduces the number of respondents to 14.

Table 8 : Delay in disbursement of financial assistance

N = 14

Responses	Number of respondents	Percentage
No delay	12	85.7
Delay	2	14.3

The above table shows that 85.7 per cent headmasters told that there was no delay in disbursement. 14.3 per cent expressed the view that there was a delay. It was

upto three to six months. Regarding the delay, the beneficiaries were also interviewed. Out of 33 beneficiaries interviewed, 24 (69.7 per cent) told that they get scholarship in time, while 6 (18.2 per cent) told that they did not get scholarship in time and the delay was from three to six months. However, 3 (12.1 per cent) did not respond. Parents were also interviewed about the delay. Cent per cent of them told that their children got scholarship regularly.

The headmasters, beneficiaries and their parents told that the delay was from three to six months. But the data reveal that the financial assistance was given to the beneficiaries irregularly. As a matter of fact, the disbursement of financial assistance is delayed by a year. But this fact was not revealed by any concerned officials or parents or beneficiaries. Middle and secondary school headmasters told that the Scheduled Tribe students got scholarships in the month of March or April of the respective academic year. Some of the headmasters also told that many of the students do not get the scholarship because of malpractices involved in sanction and disbursement of the scholarship. The incentives in kind is sanctioned in the name of the

school and not in the name of the students. The incentives in kind were mostly disbursed to students in the month of July. Some of the headmasters of the primary schools also expressed the view that number of applicants is more but the sanction is less. The disbursement of uniforms to all the poor students is not available. The uniforms were disbursed on republic day or on the day of any other school function.

Majority of the parents do not know the norms of disbursement of financial assistance. However, they are of the opinion that whenever they received it, the government sanctioned them on that very day. They thought that they get the award regularly.

The above discussion reveals that the disbursement of financial assistance and incentives in kind is always delayed nearly by a year. But no headmaster or any official concerned is ready to give in writing about the delay of financial assistance.

Causes of delay in disbursement of financial assistance

The data revealed that the major cause for delay of disbursement of financial assistance is the governments attitude towards the scholarship scheme and the attitude of the disbursing officer. The government always releases

the incentive in kind late. Also it is not given to all the students, which makes the headmasters disburse it late. This view was expressed by the majority of the headmasters. The financial assistance given to the beneficiaries in presence of parents or the first of the beneficiaries, who can be recognised by the headmaster or a class teacher. In case, some of the parents were not present at the time of disbursement, the headmasters disburse the amount at his own risk. In such cases, the beneficiaries spend the amount on their own. Later, some of the parents ask the headmaster about the scholarship amount. Hence the majority of the headmaster are not prepared to disburse the amount until and unless the parents are present. This is also one of the factor for the delay in disbursement. The district level officers expressed the view that whenever they receive the amount from the headquarter, they immediately place it at the disposal of the school authorities depending upon the demand. However, the ministerial staff working in the District Education Office is not sufficient to disburse the amount in time to all the schools concerned at a time. In this process the district level offices take one to three months in disbursement.

The frequency of disbursement of pre-matric scholarship was discussed earlier. Twice a year the amount is disbursed but as per norms it is supposed to be disbursed monthly. The Director of Education was also questioned about the delay in disbursement of financial assistance. He expressed the view that the scholarship amount is sanctioned by the Social Welfare Department in three instalments in a year. The first instalment is sanctioned in the month of September, the second in the month of December and the third in the month of March.

The district authorities disburse the amount in two instalments. The first instalment is paid in the month of March and the second in the month of July. However, the Director of Education has requested the Social Welfare Department to release timely budget, so that the amount can be disbursed timely. But the Social Welfare Department has not taken any action in this regard. The Director of Education is of the opinion that the delay is due to late sanction of the budget by the Social Welfare Department. However, there is the responsibility of the district level officers also who are over burdened with other responsibilities. The existing staff for the District Education Office is also not adequate to meet the needs at the appropriate time.

Chapter Three

UTILIZATION AND MISUTILIZATION OF PRE-MATRIC SCHOLARSHIP

Utilization

The success of any scheme of financial assistance largely depends upon its utilization. Allocation of funds itself is not enough unless it is properly utilized. In this chapter, an attempt has been made to study the different patterns of utilization of the amount of financial assistance by the beneficiaries and their parents.

With regard to the proper utilization of financial assistance by the awardees, the headmasters were interviewed to get their views. The following are their responses:

Table 9 : Utilization of financial assistance

N = 15

Responses	Number of responses	Percentage
Properly utilized	9	60.0
Not utilized properly	5	33.3
Can not say	1	6.7

The above table shows that 60 per cent of the headmasters told that the students utilized the money properly. 33.3 per cent expressed their view that the

students did not utilize the financial assistance properly. 6.7 per cent of the respondents were not able to comment on the utilization of financial assistance, because those respondents belonged to the primary schools, where financial assistance was not given.

Thus the majority of the headmasters expressed the view that the students utilized the financial assistance properly. The way in which and on what items the utilization and misutilization of financial assistance took place is given below. Among the 15 headmasters interviewed, 9 of them told that it was utilized properly. The way in which and on what items it was utilized is given in the table below.

Table 10 : The items on which the financial assistance was utilized

N = 9

Nature of utilization	Number of responses	Percentage
Purchase of books and stationery	5	55.5
Handover to the parents	4	44.5

55.5 per cent of the headmasters told that the amount was utilized on purchase of books and stationery and 44.5 per cent said it was handedover to their parents.

Table 11 : Misutilization of Financial assistance

N = 5

The item of misutilization	Number of responses	Percentage
The amount was spent on undesirable things	3	60.0
Parents utilized for household purposes	2	40.0

60 per cent of the headmasters expressed the view that; students misutilized the money in buying undesirable things and 40 per cent of them told that the parents utilized the amount on household purposes.

It is learnt from the headmasters that they send intimation to the parents before disbursement of the financial assistance. As per the norms the amount is meant for students' educational needs but a good number of parents utilized the money in their own way largely in household purposes etc.

Regarding the utilization of pre-matric scholarship the beneficiaries were also interviewed. Out of 33 students interviewed 27 students were getting the financial assistance. Hence the response was restricted to that figure only.

Table 12 * Mode of expenditure of financial assistance

N = 27

Item of expenditure	Number of responses	Percentage
Utilized on educational needs	10	37.1
Handedover to parents	15	55.5
Utilized for buying clothes and other fashionable items	2	7.4

37.1 per cent of the beneficiaries told that they spent the money on educational needs (i.e. purchase of textbooks, pen, pencil, note books, uniforms etc.), 55.5 per cent expressed the view that they handedover the money to their parents. 7.4 per cent of the beneficiaries told that they purchased clothes and other fashionable items.

It reveals that the majority of the students handed over the amount to their parents and purchase textbooks and stationery etc. Some of them spent the amount on buying the undesirable things.

About the awareness of getting scholarship parents and beneficiaries were interviewed. Cent per cent of them told that they were aware about the benefits which their children get from the schools. But, they are not aware of the norms and rules and regulation of disbursement.

Misutilization

Misutilization means that the financial assistance is utilized for the purpose other than that for which it is meant. The responsibilities of misutilization is more on the beneficiaries than on the executors of the scheme.

The data reveals that there is no direct misutilization by the beneficiaries. However, it may be interpreted that the amount which is handed over to the parents, and its utilization by them is considered as misutilization. Table No. 9 and 10 shows that 33.3 per cent of the headmasters told the amount was not utilized properly, and 55.5 per cent of beneficiaries expressed that they handed over the amount to their parents. It is also considered as misutilization. The headmasters informed that the parents utilize the amount on drinks and other purposes.

Non-utilization

Non-utilization of the incentives in cash had not been reported.

Chapter Four

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study reveals that the pre-matric scholarship scheme has been implemented successfully by the state government. The main purpose of the scheme is to provide incentives in cash and kind to improve education among the Scheduled Tribes and also to attract them towards education.

Under the pre-matric scholarship scheme, the Government gives both incentives in cash and kind. It provides general scholarships, special scholarships, hostel facilities, textbooks and uniforms. The textbook and uniforms are only for primary classes, that is, class I to V of rural areas.

The rate of scholarship for the Scheduled Tribe boy and girl students of the middle classes is Rs.15 and Rs. 20 and for the secondary classes is Rs.30 and Rs.40 per month respectively.

Hostel facility is given only for a few students on the basis of the selection committee's recommendation. The expenditure on hostel is paid to the hostel wardens through District Social Welfare Officer.

At the state level, the Director Social Welfare and Director of Education are the monitoring and sanctioning authority respectively. At the district level, Social Welfare Officer, District Education Officer, Secretary Zila Parishad and Headmasters are the concerned officers who deal with the scholarships.

The disbursement is made by the headmasters to the students during the presence of their parents. There is delay in disbursement of scholarship which is upto three to six months as the beneficiaries and parents testified. There is delay at state level also that is one to two months as opined by the headmasters.

As far as the utilization of scholarship is concerned, the data reveal that the majority of beneficiaries utilized the amount in purchasing their necessary educational items and handing over to their parents. But it was learnt through some headmasters that the beneficiaries also spent the amount on buying undesirable items. Handing over the money to their parents may be regarded as misutilization of the scholarship as opined by the headmasters and some officials.

Recommendations

On the basis of the above discussion the following recommendations may be drawn. As the data reveal, a few

primary school students get uniforms and textbooks which are due to malfunctioning of the zila parishad. There is no scholarship for primary school students. There should be a balanced approach to cover all the primary schools students whether rural or urban, since primary education is essential to achieve the goal of universalization of elementary education.

Incentives like textbooks and uniforms are not sufficient to meet the needs of the students, some other incentive like mid-day meal, merit scholarship etc. should be given at primary level. Steps should be taken to remove the malpractice at zila parishad level.

Hostel facilities and special scholarships are provided only to a few students. It should be provided to all needy students.

The amount of cash incentive is very meagre. It should be increased to meet the educational requirements of the students.

State government should make provision that disbursement of scholarships should be timely and monthly. The students get the amount generally in the month of March or April, that is, towards the end of the academic session. So they hand it over to their parents

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State government should make provision that disbursement of scholarships should be timely and monthly. The students get the amount generally in the month of March or April, that is, towards the end of the academic session. So they hand it over to their parents

or they spend as they wish. The parents also utilize the amount for household and other purposes. Steps may be taken to avoid delay in disbursement.

With regard to the utilization of pre-matric scholarship, proper utilization of the amount is necessary. At the primary level more incentives in kind is useful than incentives in cash. If sanctioned amount is paid by cheque or through bank account/post office, saving bank scheme, then it will be more useful than the money handed over to the parents of beneficiaries.

Regular and timely disbursement of financial assistance is always useful for the students. For that state and district level offices should take necessary steps to distribute the amount in time. Necessary ministerial staff should be provided, whenever necessary. To reduce the misutilization periodical evaluation should be conducted at the state level. This way various plus and minus points can be determined, and lacuna, if any, can be rectified.

ASSAM

Chapter One

SCHEME OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

The spread of education among the Scheduled Tribes is an essential and important pre-requisite to their all round development. The need for providing financial assistance to the tribal students arise from the willingness and desire of the government to bring the tribal communities educationally at par with the non-tribesmen. Among the various facilities provided for improving the educational standards, the provision of financial assistance to the tribal students is of paramount importance. It is also equally necessary to give financial assistance to the students in order to provide them a suitable incentive to attend the schools in a large number. The date of reference of the data is February 1988.

A brief note on various schemes of financial assistance

The Government of Assam has made a provision to provide financial assistance in the form of cash and kind. The government provides four type of financial assistance to Scheduled Tribe students. They are as follows:

Book grant

Uniform facility

Hostel grant

Pre-matric scholarship

Criteria and execution of the scheme of financial assistance

The financial assistance is provided to the students on the basis of the following criteria.

Criteria for the scheme of book grant and uniforms

Both the schemes of book grant and uniform grant run jointly. The book grant is given to all Scheduled Tribe students whose parents'/guardians' annual income does not exceed Rs. 8,000 per annum. The financial grants are given annually for purchase of the books and uniforms at the following rates. Students have to furnish their respective tribe and income certificates along with their application form to claim the grant.

Class I to VII Rs. 100 per student for uniform per year.

Class VIII, to X Rs. 300 per student for text books and uniforms.

An application along with the community and income certificates is submitted by the students studying in respective schools to the sub-divisional welfare officer through the head of the institution. After receipt of the applications the sub-divisional welfare officer scrutinises and puts before the welfare board for approval. After approval he disburse the grant to the respective school headmasters.

Hostel grant

This scheme provides hostel and mess facilities to the Scheduled Tribe students. It is to compensate a portion of the expenditure and to prosecute their studies further. There is an income limit of the parents or guardians for hostel grants. The income of the parents should not exceed Rs. 9,000 per annum irrespective of classes in which the student is studying. The students residing in the hostel and recognised messes get Rs. 50 per month as hostel maintenance.

At the beginning of the academic session, the sub-divisional welfare officer issues a notification to the schools with copies to Inspector of Schools and District Inspector of Schools regarding grant of hostel fees to Scheduled Tribe students. On receipt of applications supported by income and caste certificates, the sub-divisional welfare officer scrutinises and examines and, where ever necessary, makes verification on the spot, before the cases are placed before the board for approval. After getting the approval of the board, the sub-divisional welfare officer disburses the assistance to the eligible students.

Pre-metric scholarship

Pre-metric scholarship are awarded to the students on merit basis who secure a minimum of 36 per cent marks in the examination and whose parents' or guardians' annual income

does not exceed Rs. 8,000 per annum. Rate of scholarship is as follows:

Class I to IV	Rs. 5 per month
Class V to VII	Rs. 10 per month
Class VIII to X	Rs. 15 per month

The headmasters were interviewed regarding criterion on the basis of which the students get the scholarship. Their opinion as expressed by thus is reflected in this table below.

Table 1 : Selection criteria for award of financial assistance

N = 15

Criteria	Number of responses	Percentage
Low income of the parents	15	100
Low social status	4	26.6
Students performance in the examination	15	100
By virtue of his belonging to the Scheduled Tribe community	15	100

The above table shows that the responses of headmasters are multiple in nature. Cent per cent of them expressed their opinion about the criteria, that low income of the parent, children's performance in examinations and by virtue of their belongingness to the Scheduled Tribe community. 26.6 per

cent told that low social status of the parents was one of the criteria.

Low income of the parents, childrens' merit and their belonging to community were taken into account, for the selection criteria of getting scholarship.

Method of applying for scholarship

At the beginning of the academic session the Sub-divisional Welfare Officer issued the circular to all schools within his jurisdiction with advance information to the District Inspector of Schools. The students applied in a prescribed proforma and submitted the same to the headmaster. The headmaster submitted the applications to the local Sub-divisional Welfare Officer within 30 days from the date of admission of students in the school. The Sub-divisional Welfare Officer scrutinised and examined the application forms before it went to the pre-matric scholarship committee for approval.

Regarding the method of applying for the scholarships twelve headmasters were interviewed. Cent percent of the headmasters opined that student applies in an appropriate proformas that his name is sent to the social welfare department and the student submits his application after countersignature by parent and concerned authorities.

Extent of financial assistance

Here an attempt has been made to analyse the extent of scholarships, which was calculated on the basis of the number of beneficiaries in the last three years (1984-85, 1985-86 and 1986-87). The district wise distribution of financial assistance in the sample districts are shown below.

Table 2 : District-wise allocation, expenditure and the number of beneficiaries of pre-metric scholarship

(Rs. in lakhs)

Names of the districts	Allocation			Expenditure			Number of beneficiaries		
	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
Goalpara	1.58	4.09	5.94	1.58	4.09	5.94	NA	NA	NA
Karbi	1.49	2.94	NA	1.49	2.94	NA	NA	NA	NA
Anglong									
Kamrup	2.12	4.24	6.09	2.12	4.24	6.09	NA	NA	NA
North Lakhimpur	1.43	2.65	4.33	1.43	2.65	4.33	NA	NA	NA
Sivasagar	1.05	2.19	3.60	1.05	2.19	3.60	NA	NA	NA

The table above shows the allocation and expenditure of pre-metric scholarships in the sample districts, but the number of beneficiaries was not provided by any district officer.

The table given above is self explanatory. In all the five districts the allocation was increased year after year. In the year 1984-85 Kamrup district received the highest allocation (2.12 lakhs) followed by Golpara. In the year 1985-86 and 1986-87 also Kamrup received the highest allocation (4.24 and 6.09 lakhs). Expenditure has gone parallel to the allocation.

Table 3 : Textbook and uniform grant

(Rs. in lakhs)

Names of the districts	Allocation			Expenditure			Number of beneficiaries		
	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87	1984-85	1985-86	1986-87
Golpara	0.016	0.031	0.083	0.016	0.031	0.088	45	91	231
Kamrup	0.061	0.062	0.19	0.061	0.062	0.19	45	125	253
North Lakhimpur	0.046	0.046	0.18	0.046	0.046	0.092	162	9	231

The table above reveals the allocation, expenditure and number of beneficiaries of textbook and uniforms grant. In Golpara district, in 1984-85 the allocation was Rs. 0.016 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 45 beneficiaries. In 1985-86 the allocation was Rs. 0.031 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 91 beneficiaries. In 1986-87 the allocation

was Rs. 0.088 lakhs and the same amount spent on 231 beneficiaries.

In Kamrup district, in 1984-85 the allocation was Rs. 0.016 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 45 beneficiaries. In 1985-86 the allocation was Rs. 0.062 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 125 beneficiaries. In 1986-87 the allocation was Rs. 0.19 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 253 beneficiaries.

In North Lakhimpur district in 1984-85 the allocation was Rs. 0.46 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 162 beneficiaries. In 1985-86 the allocation was Rs. 0.046 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 9 beneficiaries. In 1986-87 the allocation, expenditure and beneficiaries number etc. were provided separately for uniform and textbook grant. In 1986-87 the allocation was Rs. 0.18 lakhs and Rs. 0.092 lakhs was the expenditure on 231 beneficiaries.

From the above it is concluded that allotment and expenditure were going parallel. In 1986-87 the number of beneficiaries were increased. It shows that the amount which was provided by the state government for expenditure was utilized properly.

In Sibsagar and Karbi Anglong districts the data were not available.

Hostel grant for Scheduled Tribe students

It is reported from the primary source that out of the sample districts the data were available only from two districts of Nagao and Kamrup.

Table 4 : Allotment, expenditure and number of beneficiaries of hostel grant

(Rs. in lakhs)

Names of the districts	Allocation	Expenditure	Number of beneficiaries
	1985-86	1985-86	1985-86
Kamrup	0.041	0.041	8
North Lakhimpur	0.087	0.087	25

The above table shows the allocation, expenditure and number of beneficiaries of the year 1985-86 of two districts.

In Kamrup district in 1985-86 the allocation was Rs. 0.041 lakhs and same amount was spent on eight beneficiaries.

In North Lakhimpur district the allocation was Rs. 0.087 lakhs and the expenditure was Rs. 0.087 lakhs on 25 beneficiaries. The total expenditure on hostel grants was not available. Except from Kamrup and North Lakhimpur data were not available from other districts.

The list of beneficiaries was not fully supplied by the Sub-divisional Welfare Officer and the Project Director, Integrated Tribal Development Project.

state level assistance to uniform and textbook grant

Table 5 : Allocation, expenditure and number of beneficiaries of uniform and textbook grant

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Allocation	Expenditure	Number of beneficiaries
1984-85	5.00	5.00	NA
1985-86	9.00	9.00	NA
1986-87	16.20	16.20	NA

It is seen from the above table that the allotment and expenditure were going on parallel. But the number of beneficiaries were not known due to paucity of data supplied by the Sub-divisional Welfare Officer and Project Director.

Policy behind pre-matric scholarship scheme

Since independence the Government of India and the State Government have been trying to improve the educational standards of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students. A number of incentive schemes have been launched for them, so that they can take benefit of the scheme and

prosecute their studies further. These benefits are given to them with a view to helping them to meet the cost of education and to reduce the economic burden on the parent.

In Assam the State Government had implemented the incentive schemes like pre-metric scholarship, uniform facility, textbook grant and hostel grant to the Scheduled Tribe students for prosecution of their studies. Pre-metric scholarship was provided to the students on merit basis.

Grants to non-government educational institutions

The Government of Assam also had a provision of providing grants to non-government institutions. The idea behind this scheme is as to encourage and maintain educational institutions in the rural and backward areas. The amount offered was Rs. 10 for high school students and Rs. 5 for primary and middle school students.

Purposes of awarding the scholarship,

N = 12

Purposes	Number of responses	Percentage
To achieve the universal elementary education	12	100
To help the economically and socially disadvantaged groups	12	100
To meet the cost of education	8	66.6
To attract the children towards education	8	66.6

The responses were multiple in nature. Cent percent of the headmaster opined that the purpose was to achieve the universal elementary education, to help the socially and economically disadvantaged groups who belong to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities.

Machinery and mode of disbursement

To implement the scholarship, there was a machinery to deal with the sanctioning of the financial assistance to the students.

The Sub-divisional Welfare Officer releases the funds. At the beginning of the academic session, he issues the circular to all the schools. He scrutinises and examines all the application forms before sending them to the pre-metric scholarship committee for approval.

Disbursement of scholarship money to students has to be completed within 15 days from the date of receipt of funds from the Directorate of Welfare of Tribes and Backward Classes Department. The disbursement has to be made to the students in presence of the head of the institution. But the procedure in practice is different. The Sub-divisional Welfare Officer makes the cheque against the name of head of the institution.

Respondents were interviewed regarding the sanction of funds and release of the funds to the headmasters. Cent per cent of them expressed that the District Social Welfare Officer sanctioned and released the scholarship.

Regarding the disbursement of scholarship, cent percent of them expressed the view that immediately on receipt of the fund, they disbursed the amount.

The headmaster was interviewed regarding the presence of any person at the time of disbursement. Cent percent of them expressed that there was no official present at the time of disbursement.

Frequency of disbursement

Actually the frequency of the disbursement of scholarship was not reported. But it was reported from the teacher, parents, and beneficiaries that they got the scholarship once in a year, that is at end of the year.

So from the above discussion of financial assistance it is concluded that the Government of Assam was providing financial assistance, such as pre-metric scholarship, uniform and textbook grant, and hostel grant. These were available to the students on the basis of their merit and parent's income. For that they had to apply through proper procedure. The procedure was a little difficult for the

students and it was difficult to get the community and income certificates. It took almost one year to reach the money to the students.

Chapter Two

STRENGTH AND WEAKNESSES OF THE SCHEME AND DELAY IN DISBURSEMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Strength and weaknesses of the scheme

In this chapter an endeavour has been made to study the various strong and weak points in the scheme implemented in the state. The Government of Assam provides various type of financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students. These are pre-matric scholarship, uniforms, textbook grant and hostel grant. The detail discussion was made in the previous chapter. Providing textbook, hostel and uniform is one of the good schemes for these students in order to motivate them to attend school regularly. In case of pre-matric scholarship given in cash is also useful for them to purchase necessary items to prosecute their study further. Parents also feel comparatively less burden to send their children to school.

To get the financial assistance is a difficult task because the procedure involved in sanctioning of the availability of financial assistance by the students. Out of 15 headmasters interviewed 33.3 per cent told that the scholarship is available to all the students, whereas

66.7 per cent denied the availability of scholarship to all the students. They further explained the causes of non-availability of scholarship.

Table 7 : Causes of non-availability of the financial assistance

N = 9

Causes	Number of responses	Percentage
Non-availability of application forms	9	100
Late submission of the application by the students	9	100
Inadequacy of funds	4	44.4
Irregular release of funds	6	66.6

The table above shows that non-availability of application forms and late submission of application by the students are the causes of non-availability of scholarship, as reported by cent per cent of the respondents. 44.4 per cent told that inadequacy of funds is also one of the causes. 66.6 per cent told that irregular release of funds is the cause of non-availability of scholarship.

It is said that it is the duty of the concerned authorities to accelerate the smooth functioning of the scholarship scheme so as to help the students avail the assistance in

large number. Some of the headmasters suggested measures to strengthen the scholarship scheme. These were :

- (i) percentage of marks should be relaxed
- (ii) rate of scholarship should be increased.

Headmasters have to receive the financial sanction from the concerned authorities whenever it comes to them. The headmaster do not get any TA/DA for this purpose. Hence mostly they are not in favour of going and getting the amount.

It shows a type of unwillingness among the headmasters.

Hence they should be given some incentive to do this job.

Regarding caste and income certificate, rules should be reviewed. Incentives in kind is more useful than cash otherwise students spend the cash on undesirable things which leads to misutilization. These are some of the suggestions made by the headmasters to strengthen and streamline the scheme of financial assistance.

Delay at different levels of disbursement of financial assistance

The scheme of financial assistance is dealt with by the Government of India. After 1983 it was transferred to the Department of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes Welfare. This creates a confusion about the different problems involved in payment of financial assistance. Besides, the students also submit their applications through

out the year. They submit the application late. They explained their difficulty to get the caste and income certificates from the concerned authority. It was also spelled out that the Tahsildar did not want the issue of the certificates until and unless he is satisfied about the same. For this the uneducated parents get disgusted. Some of the students did not apply for the scholarship because of these problems.

Delay at different level

The sanction comes from the State Government. The mismatching of academic and financial years and late allocation of funds by the Director, Welfare of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribes lead to delay in disbursement. Because of various personal problems the institutional Heads do not withdraw the amount which also causes delay. Many of the students submit the application either with false caste and income certificate or other certificates. To scrutinise such applications it leads to delay. Encashing the cheque is also a problem for the heads of institutions. Regarding the delay in disbursement the headmasters, beneficiaries and parents were interviewed for their views.

Table 8 : Delay in disbursement of financial assistance

	N = 15	N = 35	N = 35
	Headmasters	Beneficiaries	Parents
Delay	10 (66.7)	35 (100)	25 (100)
No delay	5 (33.3)	-	-

The above table reveals that 66.7 per cent of the headmasters told that there was delay and 33.3 per cent told that there was no delay. All the beneficiaries and their parents told that there is delay. The headmasters told that the delay is upto more than one years and the parents and beneficiaries also revealed the same.

Causes of delay

The major reasons for delay is mis-matching of financial and academic year. Whereas the latter commence from 1st January and ends on 31st December the former commences on 1st April and ends on 31st March. Therefore, the Directorate of Welfare of Tribes and backward class department have only nine months in hand to follow all the procedure of sanction of scholarship scheme. It is very difficult to function within nine months. At the beginning of the financial year the sub-divisional welfare officer requests all the heads of institutions to submit the application on or before August but in practice it is not done.

Regarding the causes of delay the headmasters were interviewed and they expressed the views given in the following table.

Table 9 : Causes of delay

N = 25

Causes	Number of respondents	Percentage
Non-availability of information from the authority	6	40
Delay by the students in submitting the necessary certificate	9	60

40 per cent of the headmasters opined that non-availability of information from the authorities and 60 per cent told that the delay by the students in submitting necessary certificates were the main causes of delay.

From the above analysis it is understood that the weaknesses and strength of the scheme of financial assistance are that the financial assistance was given in the form of scholarship, textbooks, uniform facilities and hostel grant. The major reasons for the delay in disbursement of financial assistance was the official infrastructural arrangement involved in disbursement of scholarship. The students also take considerable time in submitting the application.

Chapter Three

UTILIZATION AND MISUTILIZATION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Utilization

The success of any scheme of financial assistance largely depends upon its utilization. Allocation of funds itself is not enough unless it is properly utilized. In the present chapter an endeavour has been made to study the different patterns of utilization of the amount of financial assistance given to tribal students.

With regard to the proper utilization of scholarship the headmasters were interviewed. Cent percent of them expressed the view that the students utilized the financial assistance. Further, they also opined about the items on which they utilized the amount. The following table shows the responses of the headmasters.

Table 10 : Utilization of financial assistance

N = 15

Items	Number of responses	Percentage
Purchasing of books and stationery	15	100
Making clothes	15	100
Handing over to the parents	15	100

The responses were multiple in nature. Cent percent of the respondents opined that the students utilize the amount in purchasing books and stationery, in making clothes and in handing over to their parents.

Regarding the utilization of scholarship, the beneficiaries were interviewed. The table given below shows the mode of expenditure by the beneficiaries.

Table 11 : Mode of expenditure

N = 35

Items	Number of responses	Percentage
Utilization for educational needs	30	85.7
Handover to parents	35	100.0
Making clothes and other fashionable items	7	20.0

Many of the respondents gave more than one response. 85.7 per cent beneficiaries told that they utilized the money for educational purposes, cent percent told that, they handed over the amount to the parents and 20 per cent told that they made clothes and other fashionable items.

Most of the parents' responses show that the students utilize their money in purchasing books, stationery and dresses.

Misutilization of financial assistance

The term misutilization connotes different meanings in different contexts. In connection with the scheme of financial assistance, it means the utilization of amount for purposes other than those for which it is meant. For misutilization the responsibility is more on the recipients than on the executors of the schemes. Efforts were made to find out as to what the teacher meant by the term misutilization.

From the table it appears that making clothes and handing over the money to the parents are regarded by the teachers as a misutilization.

From the table it also appears that the beneficiaries utilized their money by handing it over to their parents, and making clothes and other fashionable items which may be as misutilization of the scholarship.

Non utilization of financial assistance

Having considered misutilization of financial assistance by the tribal students the extent of non-utilization of funds for the various schemes needs to be examined. For the misutilization the recipients were largely responsible. But in case of non-utilization the disbursing authority have to bear the responsibility. So far as non-utilization of financial assistance was concerned nothing was reported from the concerned authorities.

Chapter Four

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The main finding of the study are given below :

The main purpose of the scheme of financial assistance for pre-matric tribal students as revealed by the study is to promote the cause of tribal education and thereby to help tribal students meet a part of the expenditure on education and also to reduce the burden on the parents.

In Assam financial incentives both in cash and kind are in practice. They are bookgrant, uniform facilities, hostel grant and pre-matric scholarship. The majority of officer-respondents favoured both types of schemes, but preferred the scheme of the former category in secondary schools and the latter category in primary schools. If more scheme providing assistance in cash and in kind are introduced then it is felt that the respondent should be given a choice in selection of any type of assistance they preferred.

The criteria for awarding of this financial assistance are that the students should belong to the tribal community and their parents' income should not exceed Rs. 3,000 per annum. The students should also belong to the territory of

Assam and should be studying in government or government recognised schools. While awarding the financial assistance, the criterion of merit-cum-means is also followed.

The officer respondents were equally divided in their opinion whether the criteria were correct. Some considered them to be correct, some partly correct while others not correct.

The implementation of financial incentives and criteria are fixed by a committee. However, the Department of Tribal and Backward Classes Welfare also looks after the major work concerned with the schemes. For proper implementation of the criteria there is a need of some tribal agencies as reported by some of the headmasters and other official-respondents.

Frequency of disbursement and delay

Some tribal students received financial assistance annually rather than monthly. Again some students got assistance quarterly rather than six monthly.

A large number of recipients reported that delay occurred in disbursement. Similarly a majority of the headmaster respondents admitted delay in disbursement of financial assistance. Some students even took loan in case of delay or they fell back upon the parents for augmenting

resources. In such a case again the students has to depend on the parents for purchase of their educational needs.

Some of the officer-respondents observed that delay in disbursement told upon the initiative of tribal students for education. Delay also defeated the very purpose of financial assistance as reported by most of the respondents. Delay in disbursement was more at the state district levels as reported by the headmaster-respondents and the district level official-respondents. They were of the opinion that it takes more time at this level to complete the formalities and release of the funds.

It is also told that mis-matching of academic and financial year was also of one of the causes of delay. Students' late submission of application is also a cause of delay.

Delay leads to misutilization of financial assistance by the students absentism and poor educational performance as reported by most of the headmaster-respondents. Different attitudes of the headmasters regarding the scheme of financial assistance is also a cause of delay.

Utilization and misutilization

The study revealed that more students utilized the amount of financial assistance on the purchase of educational items, yet good number of students spend the amount on non-educational items which included personal expenses, purchase of fashionable items etc.

Utilization pattern showed that the amount was jointly spent by students and parents though larger portion of students spent the amount themselves on making clothes and other items. However, when they spend themselves, they by and large, consulted their parents.

Majority of the headmaster-respondents reported that the portion of utilization of the financial assistance followed by the students and their parents was not justified. Most of them wanted to spend the amount of financial assistance on two major items namely, on educational needs and purchase of cloth. Delay and untimely disbursement, lack of follow-up and supervision, lack of awareness, poverty and backwardness were reported as major reasons for misutilization of financial assistance reported by most of the headmaster-respondents.

It is necessary to give publicity to the scheme of financial assistance and also create awareness among the tribal people for education, prompt and timely disbursement

of financial assistance, proper supervision and follow-up. Introduction of more schemes in kind and also introduction of prescribed rules for the tribal recipients were also suggested as important measure for removal of misutilization of financial assistance.

Recommendations

The policy of the State Government may be oriented towards covering more tribal students under the scheme of financial assistance. It is necessary to adopt different approaches in awarding financial assistance to students belonging to different tribal communities.

In pockets of tribal areas, where people are very poor tribal students should be given mid day meals. A sympathetic approach is necessary for success of the scheme, especially those which provide assistance in kind.

The amount of pre-matric scholarship should be revised. For award of hostel grant the parents' income limit should be reduced so that more number of students can avail of the facility. More financial schemes should be introduced so that choice of selection is kept open. Delay at whatever level it may exist may be immediately removed.

Though it may take a month or two to complete the necessary formalities by the authorities, yet it is necessary to make adhoc sanction so that some part of the amount of scholarship could be given to the recipient specially at secondary level.

Misutilization could be removed by creating awareness among the parents. This work may be undertaken by the respective school teachers. Supervision of tribal students is essential for removing misutilization.

The financial assistance may be disbursed in four instalments.

There may be an agency which could follow-up the schemes of financial assistance and the recipients. State Government may also evaluate the schemes of financial assistance periodically. And, in the light of findings made, may make necessary modifications in the scheme.

MAHARASHTRA

Chapter One

SCHEME OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A brief note on various schemes of financial assistance

The education system of Maharashtra is unique in its nature. Majority of lower level institutions are run by various voluntary organizations. The educationists in the country refer the Maharashtra education system as a 'Model' to achieve the goal in a better and rapid way. According to 1981 census the state had a population of 69.9 millions of which 9.19 per cent were Scheduled Tribes. The State government had adopted various measures to educate these people. Since education is the principal means to create awareness and socio-economic betterment, the government had adopted various measures to impart education to these people. The literacy rate among the Scheduled Tribes is 22.29 per cent. To bridge the gap between the general population and the Scheduled Tribe population, the state had initiated various incentives schemes for students of these communities to attract them to the school in large number.

As directed by the constitution, the union Government has given special importance to the schemes providing educational facilities to Scheduled Tribe students. The State Government has also come out with specific plans with specific financial out lays. The date of reference of these data is August 1989.

The administration of primary education in rural areas of Maharashtra rests with zilla parishads. The responsibility of primary education in urban areas has been entrusted to the Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils, etc. There is no specific financial assistance given to Scheduled Tribe students at primary stage. However, depending upon the availability of funds, some local bodies provide uniforms, stationery and textbooks to deserving candidates, whereas zilla parishads have introduced the scheme of free supply of uniforms and reading writing material to the students in classes I and II in rural areas.

Pre-metric scholarship

The Government of Maharashtra is providing financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students studying in the government and government recognised schools, in classes Vth to X. The assistance is given in the name of merit, stipend, freeship, reimbursement of examination fees etc.

Since there is no incentives in cash nor in kind at primary level, the schools are exempted from the survey. Five districts were selected for the detailed study. They are : Chandrapur, Yavatmal, Nashik, Dhule, Thane. The schools selected for the detail study were from sub-plan area, as well as from other areas.

Merit scholarship

The scholarship is given to the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes and Nomadic Tribes, who are studying at pre-metric level. The student, in order to get the scholarship, should stand first among all the students of a particular class of the concerned school. This is considered as merit scholarship. The government rules is that, grant of scholarship and exemption from examination fee will be given to the students belonging to the Scheduled Castes (including New Buddhists) and Scheduled Tribes. This scholarship is available to the students reading in primary, middle and secondary schools. The scholarship are awarded by the Social Welfare Department of the Zila Parishad, to the concerned schools. The rate of scholarship is Rs. 15 per annum for classes V - VII and Rs. 60 per annum for classes VIII - IX. The students of class X get Rs. 120 per annum.

Stipend

Stipend is given to the pre-matric students studying in the schools located in tribal sub-plan area. Mostly stipend is given to all the students who are studying in class VI to X. The rate varies from class to class. The scheme is implemented by the Education Department through the district offices.

The rate of stipend for boys studying in class V - VII are Rs. 40 per month and for girls Rs. 50 per month. For boys studying in class VIII - X it is Rs. 50 per month and for girls it is Rs. 60 per month. During the 12 months, in order to get the stipend, the student has to attend the school for atleast 75 per cent of the school working days.

Tuition and reimbursement of examination fees

Along with merit scholarship, tuition and examination fees are also reimbursed to the students. The rate of the fee also differs from class to class. This facilities is also given to the both the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe students.

Policy of awarding financial assistance

Education of the unenrolled children of the Scheduled Tribes is of paramount importance to achieve the universalisation of elementary education. The state

Government is committed to achieve cent per cent enrolment of these children. Various financial schemes have been initiated, keeping in view the importance of education in the socio-economic development of the under-developed groups.

Criteria and implementation of pre-matric scholarship scheme

The financial assistance is awarded to the students who belong to the Scheduled Tribes and must be reading in the government/recognised/aided institutions located in the territory of the state.

Criteria for award of stipend to these students is that they must belong to tribal sub-plan area and also studying in the schools located in the same area. He should also have been promoted every year to the next class. The student should have attended classes for atleast 75 per cent of the school working days.

Merit scholarship is awarded to the students who stand first among the Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste students. This is awarded to only two students in each class who get 1st and IInd rank. The student should have got minimum of 50 per cent marks in the annual examination.

Tuition and reimbursement of examination fees are given to the concerned schools where the Scheduled Tribe students are enrolled. The students have no responsibility to pay the tuition fees. The school authority collects the amount from the Social Welfare Office. However, the student has to pay the examination fees which is reimbursed later on to him.

Regarding the criteria followed by the government to sanction the financial assistance, it is enquired from the headmasters. Some of them expressed the view that the student need not apply for scholarship. The school headmaster sends the list of eligible candidates to the concerned authorities. They also opined that, by virtue of their community they get the financial assistance. The officials interviewed at state and district level also expressed the same view.

The selection criteria for award of financial assistance as reported by the headmasters, is on the basis of their community as well as merit-cum-means. Some of the headmasters gave more than one response. Out of 10 headmasters interviewed, six (60 per cent) of them told that by virtue of their belonging to the Scheduled Tribe community, they are selected, four (40 per cent) of them expressed that by virtue of their merit determined in the annual examination they are selected for the scholarship.

Machinery and mode of disbursement

Financial assistance for the tribal students involves a long process. Both the Directorates of Education and Social Welfare are involved in disbursing the financial assistance. Mostly stipend is awarded by the Directorate of Education. Payment of tuition fees, examination fees and merit scholarship are disbursed by the Social Welfare Department. Both the directorates are situated in Pune. The directorates operate their schemes through the district level offices.

At the district level Zilla Parishad is the sole authority, where both the Education Officers (middle and secondary) and Social Welfare Officers are working under the Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad. Mostly, there is a separate section in both the directorates dealing with the award of financial assistance. At the district level there is one assistant who looks after the schemes. Apart from that, block education officers are involved in identifying the schools.

To confirm the procedure followed 10 headmasters were interviewed. Out of them 60 per cent of them told that District Education Officer (secondary) releases the stipend amount. And all the headmasters said that tuition fees, examination fees and scholarship amount are released by the Social Welfare Officer, Zilla Parishad.

The disbursement of financial assistance is mostly in cash. However, in some primary schools, attached to the Zilla Parishad uniform and textbook etc. are also given.

Some of the officer respondents at the district level expressed their views about the existing machinery and mode of disbursement of various incentives. The majority of the headmasters and district officers told that the amount was released by the State Government twice in a year. Then the district offices make available the funds to the concerned headmasters. Then the high and middle school headmasters draw the amount from the treasury and disburse it to the awardees in the presence of parents and village sarpanch.

Extent of financial assistance

The scholarship is given on merit-cum-means basis. The coverage is very less in the sense that Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students share the scholarship among them. The scholarship is only for the students who stands 1st and 2nd in each class. In this case there is no guarantee to get the scholarship by the tribal students.

The stipend amount which is for the students of the tribal sub-plan is handsome. Majority of the villagers are not aware of the scholarship and stipend. The scheme-wise

expenditure and the number of beneficiaries at the state level as well as at the sample district level is given below.

The stipend is provided to tribal students who are prosecuting their studies in the school located in tribal sub-plan area. The scheme is run by the education department.

Table 1 : Stipends provided in the tribal sub-plan area

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Allocation	Expenditure	Number of beneficiaries
1985-86	64.13	50.52	10,104
1986-87	68.38	60.60	12,120
1987-88	113.22	103.01	20,602

In the year 1985-86 Rs. 64.13 lakhs were allocated and Rs. 50.52 lakhs were spent on 10,104 students. In the year 1986-87 the allocation was Rs. 68.38 lakhs and the expenditure was Rs. 60.60 lakhs on 12,120 beneficiaries. For the year 1987-88 Rs. 113.22 lakhs were allocated and Rs. 103.01 lakhs were spent on 20,602 beneficiaries.

This shows the tribal sub-plan area spending huge amount in the name of stipend to the tribal students. The above data show that in the year 1987-88 the allocation

touched three figures. Obviously the number of beneficiaries increased to a little less than double when compared to the previous years.

Merit scholarship

The merit scholarship is awarded to the students who stand first in the annual examinations among the Scheduled Tribe students. Even though the number of beneficiaries are very less its coverage is throughout the state.

Table 2 : Merit scholarship scheme

(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Allocation	Expenditure	Number of beneficiaries
1985-86	5.29	2.74	7,463
1986-87	1.68	1.43	3,643
1987-88	2.22	2.03	4,407

In the year 1985-86 the allocation was Rs. 5.29 lakhs and Rs. 2.74 lakhs were spent on 7,463 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87, Rs. 1.68 lakhs were allocated and Rs. 1.43 lakhs were spent on 3,643 beneficiaries. For the year 1987-88, Rs. 2.22 lakhs were allocated and Rs. 2.03 were spent on 4,407 beneficiaries.

The expenditure on stipends in the sample districts is shown in the table given below. It shows the allocation, expenditure and number of beneficiaries for each district.

Table 3 : Stipends for Scheduled Tribe students awarded by the education department in the tribal sub-plan area.

(Rs. in lakhs)

Names of the districts	Allocation			Expenditure			Number of beneficiaries		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Chandrapur	4.13	7.00	8.00	4.13	6.99	8.00	4483	6768	3535
Yavatmal	4.12	4.45	4.47	2.31	4.45	4.74	903	951	1032
Nashik	10.84	8.46	20.66	10.84	8.46	6.00	5576	3866	12897
Dhule	11.13	8.36	2.85	11.13	8.30	3.85	560	3997	4464
Thane	5.90	7.00	8.40	5.90	7.00	8.40	1475	1750	2045

1 = 1985 - 1986

2 = 1986 - 1987

3 = 1987 - 1988

In the years 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 in Chandrapur district the allocation was Rs. 4.13, 7.00 and 8.00 lakhs and the expenditure almost equal to the allocation. The number of beneficiaries were 4,483, 6,768 and 3,535 respectively.

In the district of Yavatmal, the allocation was Rs. 4.12, 4.45 and 4.77 lakhs. The expenditure figures run equal to the allocation. But for the year 1985-86 the expenditure was only Rs. 2.31 lakhs and during the remaining two years the expenditure is equal to allocation. The number of beneficiaries were 903, 951 and 1,032 respectively.

In the Nashik district the allocation figure were Rs. 10.84, 8.46 and 20.66 for the three years. The expenditure for the year 1985-86, 1986-87 and the figures is equal to the allocation and in the year 1987-88, Rs. 6.00 lakhs were spent against the allocation of Rs. 20.66 lakhs. 5,576, 3,866 and 12,897 were the beneficiaries during the same years respectively.

In Dhule district the allocation was Rs. 11.13, 8.36 and 3.85 and the expenditure figure were also the same. 560, 3,997 and 4,464 were beneficiaries for the above said expenditure in the respective years.

In Thane district, the allocation was Rs. 5.90, 7.00 and 8.40 lakhs and the expenditure figures goes parallel to the allocation figures. 1,475, 1,750 and 2,045 were the beneficiaries in the year 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 respectively.

Among the sample districts Nashik received the highest amount. In the years 1985-86 and 1987-88 Nashik has the

highest number of beneficiaries and in the year 1986-87 Chandrapur has the highest number of beneficiaries.

However, there is discrepancy in the figures in expenditure for the year 1987-88 in Nashik district. Though the number of beneficiaries is very high, the expenditure figures is low.

Merit scholarship

Number of beneficiaries in the sample districts is given in table number 4.

Table 4 : Merit scholarship scheme implemented by Social Welfare Department for Scheduled Tribe students
(Rs.in lakhs)

Names of the districts	Allocation			Expenditure			Number of beneficiaries		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Chandrapur	0.13	0.10	0.15	0.13	0.10	0.15	327	250	346
Yavatmal	0.17	0.08	0.09	0.15	0.08	0.09	295	185	186
Nashik	0.50	0.15	0.40	0.50	0.15	0.40	833	251	800
Dhule	0.75	0.12	0.35	0.13	0.15	0.16	313	375	432
Thane	0.20	0.13	0.24	0.20	0.12	0.22	524	330	494

1 = 1985-1986

2 = 1986-87

3 = 1987-88

In Chandrapur district the allocation for the merit scholarship was Rs.0.13, 0.10 and 0.15 lakhs for the years 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88. The expenditure went parallel to the allocation and the number of beneficiaries was 327, 250 and 346 respectively.

In Yavatmal district, the allocation was Rs 0.17, 0.08 and 0.09 and the expenditure figures went parallel to the allocation and the number of beneficiaries was 295, 185 and 186 respectively.

In Nashik district, the allocation was Rs 0.50, 0.15 and 0.40 lakhs and the expenditure is equal to the allocation and the number of beneficiaries was 833, 251 and 800 for the respective years.

In Dhule district, the allocation was Rs 0.75, 0.12 and 0.35 and the expenditure was Rs 0.13, 0.15 and 0.16 whereas the number of beneficiaries was 313, 375 and 432 respectively.

In Thane district, the allocation was Rs 0.20, 0.13 and 0.24 lakhs and the expenditure was almost equal to the allocation. The number of beneficiaries was 524, 330 and 494 respectively for above said years.

The amount of merit scholarship is fixed. Hence the figure is almost same in the three years with a little variation with the expenditure. However, among the sample districts Nashik has again represented the highest number of recipient of the scholarship.

Freeship and reimbursement of examination fees

The table below shows the freeship and reimbursement of examination fees provided to the schools concerned, in the five sample districts.

Table 5 : Freeship and reimbursement of examination fees

(Rs. in lakhs)

Names of the districts	Allocation			Expenditure			Number of beneficiaries		
	1	2	3	1	2	3	1	2	3
Chandrapur	2.29	1.87	2.84	2.29	1.87	2.84	9,438	6,322	5,466
Nyrtmal	0.64	0.77	0.76	0.63	0.77	0.73	1,371	1,864	1,586
Nashik	0.57	0.70	1.00	0.57	0.70	1.00	950	1,167	1,000
Dhule	1.00	0.95	1.15	0.89	0.82	1.15	3,557	4,899	4,257
Thane	1.06	0.68	1.09	0.82	0.67	1.06	2,993	2,118	1,935

1 = 1985 - 1986

2 = 1986 - 1987

3 = 1987 - 1988

In Chandrapur the allocation in the year 1985-86 was Rs. 2.29 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 9,438 students. In the year 1986-87, Rs. 1.87 lakhs was the allocation and the same amount spent on 6,322 students. In the year 1987-88, Rs. 2.84 lakhs were allocated and the same amount spent on 5,466 students.

In Yavatmal district, the allocation were Rs. 0.64, 0.77 and 0.76 lakhs and atleast the same amount spent on 1,371, 1,864 and 1,586 beneficiaries for the years 1985-86, 1986-87 and 1987-88 respectively.

In Dhule district, the allocation were Rs. 1.00, 0.95 and 1.15 lakhs and Rs. 0.89, 0.82 and 1.15 lakhs were spent on 2,557, 4,899 and 1,257 beneficiaries respectively.

In Thane district, the allocation were Rs. 1.06, 0.68 and 1.09 lakhs, against this allocation the amount spent was Rs. 0.82, 0.67 and 1.06 lakhs on 2,993, 2,118 and 1,935 beneficiaries respectively.

The data show that Chandrapur has the highest number of beneficiaries during all the three years when compared to the other sample districts.

Frequency of disbursement

The disbursement of the financial assistance and instalments in which it is paid may be considered as frequency of disbursement.

The merit scholarship is paid once a year, whereas the stipend amount is disbursed twice a year. The amount of tuition fees and reimbursement of examination fees is paid once a year. Most of the headmasters showed their dislike towards social welfare department because of the way in which it works. The tuition fees was reimbursed once in two or three years which makes the school management inactive in many aspects.

Regarding the frequency of disbursement, the headmasters' views are as follows:

Table 6 : Duration of disbursement of financial assistance

N = 10

Time gap	Number of responses	Percentage
Twice in a year	6	60
Once in a year	4	40

Out of 10 headmasters interviewed, 60 per cent of them expressed the view that the amount is disbursed

immediately after receiving from the concerned authorities, 40 per cent of them said that it is disbursed at the end of the academic year. It shows that the headmasters who disburse the amount immediately, are from the sub-plan area and the remaining are from other areas.

Majority of the headmasters expressed the opinion that there is no delay in disbursement of financial assistance. The parents and beneficiaries also expressed the same view about the timely disbursement. However, they accepted that the scholarship and the stipend amount is disbursed only either in September or March. This shows that the amount is disbursed after commencement of the school.

Chapter Two

STRENGTH AND WEAKNESSES OF THE SCHEME AND DELAY IN DISBURSEMENT OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Strength and weaknesses of the scheme

The financial assistance provided to the tribal students in the tribal sub-plan area is a welcome scheme. The amount awarded is also attractive. In the interior areas, hostels are also maintained for the socially and economically disadvantaged students. Mostly these hostels are attached to the schools. The management have a close connections. The official respondents interviewed expressed the view that the stipend was very useful for the student as well as parents for sending the child to the school regularly.

The incentives in kind was also useful for the primary school students in order to attend school regularly.

While discussing the weakness of the schemes, first it may be pointed out that there are no attractive incentives at primary level. Some of the officer respondents felt that there is a need to implement some attractive schemes at primary level, to get cent per cent enrolment in rural and urban slum areas. Stipend was not awarded to the primary students even in the tribal sub-plan area.

Merit scholarship is meant for Scheduled Caste, scheduled Tribe and Vimukta Jati Nomadic Tribe students. Among these three communities, two students only get the scholarship. It is another drawback, as the Scheduled Tribe students are slow learners when compared to the Scheduled Castes and other backward communities. In such case almost all the classes in urban and semiurban areas the first and second places go to the students of other than Scheduled Tribes.

The enrolment of children in tribal areas is satisfactory after the implementation of the stipend scheme. Out of 10 headmasters interviewed, 60 per cent of them said that the enrolment has increased, and 40 per cent of them, opined that there is no specific change in enrolment after introduction of financial assistance. They were further enquired about the causes of non-attraction of the students towards scholarship.

Table 7 : Headmaster's views on non-attraction of students towards the financial assistance

N = 4

Causes	Number of responses	Percentage
Amount is meagre	4	100
Payment is irregular	2	50

The headmasters who told that there is no appreciable rise in the enrolment, mostly belonged to the schools in the non sub-plan area. The table given above shows that multiple response were given by the respondents. All the headmasters interviewed expressed the view that the amount is meagre, 50 per cent of them said that payment is irregular and the same per cent of headmasters said that majority of the parents as well as the school managements is not aware of the merit scholarship implemented in the schools.

Some of the high school headmasters expressed their dissatisfaction towards the social welfare and education department for not intimating about the facilities available to Scheduled Tribe students.

Delay at different levels

Delay is a regular phenomena in all the systems of public life. The disbursement of financial assistance to the Scheduled Tribe students is not an exception. The delay is not only in planning and administration of the scheme of financial assistance to the students. As stated earlier, it is a deep-rooted problem and has far-reaching consequences.

Successful implementation of the scheme of financial assistance depends mainly on efficient execution and avoidance of delay. So far as the scheme of financial assistance is concerned, delay due to financial assistance not made available in time to concerned directorate and to the district authorities. The state and district level officials concerned expressed the views that delay is caused by the late release of funds by the government.

The headmasters' views regarding delay of disbursement is different from the officer's views. The official respondents said that the delay is due to the schools not receiving the amount by private management who get the financial aid from the state government. Regarding the tuition fee and reimbursement of examination fees are concerned, the authorities never pay regularly. Many of the headmasters interviewed expressed the view that officers do not cooperate in distributing the various incentive schemes amount to the schools and also some of the headmasters expressed the view that the management get the amount from the government but do not disburse to the schools.

The schools located in the tribal sub-plan areas get the financial assistance regularly. The response of the beneficiaries were also satisfactory regarding receipt of

the amount. However, many of the students said that they get the merit scholarship amount by the end of the academic year, whereas stipend is given twice a year. The parents and beneficiaries were not able to say anything about the delay since they do not know about the norms etc. They were keen on the receipt of scholarship every year. The cause of delay is given below, the responses were multiple in nature.

Table 8 : Causes of delay in disbursement of financial assistance

N = 10

Causes of delay	Number of respondents	Percentage
The school could not get the information from the authorities at appropriate time	5	50
Non availability of necessary documents from the students	5	50
Indifferent attitude of government officials	10	100

Out of 10 headmasters interviewed, 50 per cent of them expressed the view that the school could not get the information from the authorities at the appropriate time. Another 50 per cent of the headmasters expressed the

view that non-availability of necessary documents from the students was the cause of delay. Apart from these, all the headmasters expressed the view that the government officials assume an indifferent attitude towards the scholarship. This leads to delay in disbursement of the financial assistance.

This shows that mostly all the headmasters in urban areas do not get proper information from the government, whereas in the sub-plan area the scheme runs properly except a few irregularities.

Non-payment of scholarship

In case of merit scholarship there is no instance of non-payment of amount. However, in case of stipend which is made available in the sub-plan area, full amount is not paid to the students. In majority of schools, the management takes some amount in the name of school welfare, furniture, repairs of school building etc. The amount taken ranges from Rs. 5 to 20 from each student. For instance, a case study is illustrated here.

In district Yavatmal the investigator visited the middle school of village Lohara. The headmasters of the school is Smt. S.S. Phating. Miss Parvati Kundalika

who was a student studying in the class VI, belongs to Zingabhoi tribe. Her father is a labourer working in a hostel in Yavatmal. She was eligible to the stipend amount of Rs. 500 for the year 1987-88. She could not get the last years' stipend because the sanction was not received last year. The sanction was made for two years and the amount was released during the current year. In such she was eligible to get Rs. 1000. But she left the school in between during the last year; but the headmistress did not make it clear to the student. After rejoining the same class, she was given Rs. 250 only. But the student signed for Rs. 500 + 500 for 1987-88, 1988-89 respectively. As a witness of payment the parent as well as the village Sarpanch also signed. An enquiry was made from the class teacher and village sarpanch and also the parents. For this the headmistress could not give any satisfactory reply. Then the case was referred to the Education Officer, Zilla Parishad, Yavatmal. We have also enquired from the Sarpanch who was a witness. He said that the headmistress paid Rs. 750 to the student. Since the student has not attended school completely she got only Rs. 250. The statement of the Sarpanch and the headmistress is contradictory.

Regarding the tuition fee and examination fees the school headmasters said that they had not got the grant from the government in time. However, they are getting since the last two years, they are paying regularly. Some of the headmasters also do not reimburse the examination fee which is pre-paid by the students.

Chapter Three

UTILIZATION AND MISUTILIZATION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Utilization

The success of any scheme of financial assistance mostly depends upon its proper utilization and allocation of funds. In the present chapter an endeavour has been made to study different pattern of utilization of the amount of financial assistance given to the Scheduled Tribe students.

Majority of the officer respondents and headmasters expressed the view that the amount of financial assistance was expected to be spent by the students on education. But in practice, specially the amount given in the name of stipend, is spent in a different way. Before verifying the utilization by the students, the views of the headmasters about the propose of financial assistance was obtained, which is as follows.

Table 8 : Purpose of awarding financial assistance

N = 10		
Purposes	Number of responses	Percentage
To help the economically disadvantaged groups	5	50
To meet the cost of education	4	40
To attract the students towards education	6	60
To compensate the loss in daily earning of the child	5	50
By virtue of their belonging to Scheduled Tribe community	6	60

The table given above shows the aim of the scholarship which is awarded to the Scheduled Tribe students. Majority of the headmasters, gave more than one response. Out of 10 headmasters interviewed, 50 per cent of them told that in order to help economically disadvantaged groups, 40 per cent of them expressed the views that to meet the cost of education, 60 per cent of headmasters opinion was that to attract the students towards the education and some per cent told that by virtue of their belonging to Scheduled Tribe community, and another 50 per cent expressed that to compensate the loss in daily earning of the child that the financial assistance was given.

The above analysis shows that, the amount was given for the Scheduled Tribe students who are economically and socially disadvantaged, and also to attract them to the school in large number.

Table 9 : Utilization of financial assistance

N = 10

Items of utilization	Number of responses	Percentage
On purchasing books and stationery	8	80
On making clothes	6	60
By handing over to the parents	7	70

All the headmasters gave more than one response. Out of 10 headmasters interviewed, 80 per cent of them expressed the view that the amount was spent on purchasing books and stationery and other educational items. 60 per cent said that the students hand over the amount to the parents.

The majority of students spent the amount on educational needs, and, at the same time a large number of students handed over the amount to their parents which may be considered as misutilization.

The above views were also ascertained from the beneficiaries of financial assistance. The response were multiple in nature.

Table 10 : Utilization of financial assistance by the students

N = 25

Item of utilization	Number of responses	Percentage
Utilized for educational needs	20	80
Handed over to the parents	9	36
Utilized for making clothes and other fashionable items	15	60

Out of 25 students interviewed, 80 per cent expressed the view that the amount was utilized for educational needs, 36 per cent of them told that the amount was handed over to the parents and another 60 per cent said that the amount was utilized for making clothes and other fashionable items.

The above analysis shows that there is a close resemblance between the headmasters' views and those of the beneficiaries.

The officials at the district and state level also confirmed that there was no prescribed rules for the ways in which and the items on the which the amount of financial assistance was to be spent by the students. Hence it is very difficult to say how the amount was properly utilized. However, it is common understanding that the financial assistance is meant for educational needs only. But it is spent on many items which are of non-educational purpose.

The adequacy of financial assistance was also enquired with. The headmasters' views was that stipend amount was sufficient to meet their educational needs whereas the scholarship amount was very meager. The parents as well as beneficiaries were also the same view.

The parents' views about the utilization of financial assistance was that it was mostly spent on educational items, food and clothes. They also spend it on clothing of the household members and repayment of loan and other items. This response was mostly from the parents who are residing in the tribal sub-plan area.

Misutilization

The terms misutilization connotes different meanings in different contexts. In connection with the scheme of financial assistance the amount spent on items other than

on which it is meant is considered as misutilization. For misutilization the responsibility is more on the recipients than the executors of the scheme. Effort were made to find out as to in what way the amount was misutilized.

Many of the officer-respondents did not come out about the items of misutilization. However, they told that the amount was given to the students for educational purpose only. If it was spent on other than educational purpose, it was considered as misutilization. The headmasters and the district level officers also expressed the same view. However, a majority of the headmasters said that the amount was mostly utilized for household purpose and for drinks by the parents. The items of misutilization is given below.

Table 11 : Items of misutilization

N = 10

Items of misutilization	Number of responses	Percentage
Parents utilize for household purposes	5	50
Parents use it on drinks	4	40
Students spent the amount on undesirable activities	3	30

The response were multiple in nature. Out of 10 headmasters interviewed, 50 per cent of them expressed the view that financial assistance was used for household purpose, 40 per cent of them expressed the view that parents used it on drinks and other 30 per cent said that students spent the amount on undesirable activities.

Efforts were made to find out the various causes of misutilization of financial assistance through headmasters, beneficiaries and parents. Delay and untimely disbursement of financial assistance was one of the major reasons given by the majority of respondents. Another reason for misutilization was that there was no prescribed rules as to what items the amount should be spent on, as opined by the many officials and the headmasters. Lack of follow up action, supervision and coordination among the departments are other causes of misutilization. Lack of awareness and backwardness are also some of the reasons for it.

Chapter Four

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

The main objective of the scheme of financial assistance is to promote education among the weaker sections of the society to attract them to the school. It is also to reduce the burden of meeting educational expenses on parents.

The State Government has laid more emphasis on schemes providing assistance in cash. The schemes, by and large, are confined to the middle and secondary school students only. The major schemes implemented in the state are stipend, merit scholarships, reimbursement of examination and tuition fees etc. There are no incentives in kind at the secondary level.

A majority of the officer-and headmaster-respondents favoured the introduction of incentives in kind. They further stressed the need to introduce some schemes at the primary level.

The stipend scheme is dealt with by the education department, whereas schemes dealing with merit scholarship tuition and reimbursement of examination fees are dealt with by the social welfare department.

The majority of headmasters and concerned officials at state level reported that the assistance given to the students was inadequate. However, some of the parents and beneficiaries seemed satisfied with the assistance which their children get. These belong mostly to the tribal sub-plan area.

The major criteria for award of financial assistance are that the students should belong to the Scheduled Tribe community and must be studying at government or government aided or recognised schools of Maharashtra. For award of merit scholarship, one should get more than 50 per cent marks and also he should secure first or second rank among the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe, students in a particular class.

The students who belong to the Scheduled Tribes enrolled in the schools need not pay any tuition fees to the concerned schools. Examination fees are also reimbursed to these students.

Officer-respondents were equally divided in their opinion regarding the criterion followed in the state. Some said it was correct and some said that it was not correct.

The implementation procedure of stipend scheme was not satisfactory as reported by the headmasters. For proper implementation of this scheme, there should be a suitable agency as reported by the some of the officer respondents.

The merit scholarship is awarded for a few students and amount is also very negligible to meet the educational needs.

As the study revealed, the machinery used in implementing the scheme was very unsatisfactory. The financial assistance is disbursed through social welfare and education departments. There is no coordination between the two departments. Even though both the departments are meant for welfare of the Scheduled Tribes one does not know the scheme implemented by the other. There is no supervision at any level regarding the schemes concerned. Since the education officer and social welfare officer are over burdened with many jobs they have little time to look after the incentives in detail. Majority of the Zilla Parishad officer respondents reported that they need more official/supervising staff to deal with the pre-matric scholarship.

Regarding the extent of financial assistance generally the coverage is very less. In tribal sub-plan areas, stipend scheme also has a very low coverage. No incentives in kind are awarded.

Regarding the frequency of disbursement, the merit scholarship is disbursed once a year, the stipend twice a year.

Delay in disbursement of financial assistance is more at the state level than at other levels which is reported by the district level officers and headmasters. It also leads to misutilization of financial assistance by the student and absenteeism and poor educational performance as reported by the headmasters.

A majority of the officer-respondents and headmasters expressed the view that the amount of financial assistance given to the Scheduled Tribe students is mostly utilized on education. The study revealed that the stipend is spent on making clothes and handing over to the parents. There is no prescribed set of rules as to how the amount should be spent. All the officer respondents and headmasters felt the need of having prescribed rules for the utilization pattern. When the parents spent the amount on other than education it is not justified. Some of the officer-respondents reported that the pattern of utilization of financial assistance followed by the parents was not justified.

Delay, untimely disbursement, lack of follow up, supervision, lack of awareness, poverty and backwardness

were reported as major reasons of misutilization of financial assistance in the tribal sub-plan areas.

Some of the managements of institution take advantage of the huge amount of stipend. They deduct some amount in the name of school welfare. Some of the schools also do not disburse the examination fees to the students which they pay earlier.

Recommendations

The policy of the state government may be oriented towards covering more Scheduled Tribe students under each scheme. The needy and deserving students should be encouraged to continue their studies by providing more assistance irrespective of the area.

Apart from the schemes providing assistance in cash which are already operating in the state, more schemes like textbooks, stationery, uniforms and hostel facility - may be introduced at all the levels of primary education.

The existing schemes may be scrutinised and made uniform to all the students concerned. The scheme of education department may be extended to other Scheduled Tribe students keeping in view his economic and his parents' status. The merit scholarship scheme should be implemented separately to the Scheduled Tribe students and the number of scholarship should be increased. The existing rates also should be increased.

Supervision may be strengthened, which will be helpful in avoiding misutilization of the amount in tribal sub-plan areas. The headmasters and the managements involved in misutilization of the scholarship funds should be taken to task.

A uniform criterion of merit-cum-means is all right but the standard of merit need not be so high as to disqualify a large percentage of students.

Delay at the state level with regard to sanction of budget should be minimised so that the sanction order reaches the lower level at an early date.

At primary level there should be some financial assistance and incentives in kind. Proper utilization of financial assistance can be best ensured providing the recipients are given right in the beginning clear cut instruction by the authorities who disburse the financial assistance regarding the manner in which the financial assistance ought to be spent by them.

There is a need of wide publicity about the schemes implemented for these students, so that they can approach the school and utilize the funds fully. Merit scholarship schemes should be implemented in all the schools. Proper

instructions should be given to all the urban rural schools for sending the names of Scheduled Tribes students who stand first in the class.

Proper coordination is necessary among the departments involved in the education and implementation of scholarship schemes so that uniform distribution can be ensured.

There should be an agency to look after the financial assistance at state and district levels. Periodical evaluation is necessary to find out the various gaps in the system.

B I H A R

Chapter One

SCHEME OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Brief note on the various schemes of financial assistance

The Government of Bihar has made a provision to provide financial assistance to Scheduled Caste and scheduled Tribe students who are studying at pre-matric level, in order to encourage them for education and also to help them in pursuing their studies further.

The date of reference of the data is February 1988.

The financial assistance is given both in cash and kind. Incentives in cash include scholarship, free studentship, exemption from examination fees etc. Incentives in kind include mid day meal, uniform facility, supply of free textbooks and stationery.

The State Government has the provision to provide uniform facilities, textbooks and stationery to the Scheduled Tribe students. Scheme-wise criterion is not available at the Directorate or District level offices.

It is reported that the uniform facilities had been introduced since 1979-80. The State Government paid Rs.70 to each student for uniforms. It is also reported

that in the year 1984-85 the government had spent Rs.6.0 lakhs and in 1985-86 Rs.10 lakhs on uniforms.

The data was collected from five sample districts of the state. Out of them in four districts, namely, Ranchi, Santhal Pargana, Singhbhum and Palamau there is provision of disbursement of uniform facility, whereas in Dhanbad it is not there.

Three years' data were collected from the selected sample districts on uniform facilities which is shown in table 1.

Table 1 : Allocation, expenditure and number of beneficiaries of uniform scheme

(Rs. in lakhs)

Districts	Allocation			Expenditure			Number of beneficiaries		
	84-85	85-86	86-87	84-85	85-86	86-87	84-85	85-86	86-87
Ranchi	1.02	2.10	3.27	1.02	2.10	3.27	1025	3000	4640
Santhal-Pargana	69.80	68.00	48.37	69.80	68.00	48.37	698	691	691
Singhbhum	5.30	2.75	3.99	1.53	2.75	3.99	1540	2750	5713
Palamau	23.00	98.00	74.90	23.00	98.00	74.90	237	1800	1270
Dhanbad	Data not available								

In Ranchi district in the year 1984-85 the allocation was Rs.1.02 lakhs, the same amount was spent on 1,025 beneficiaries. In the year 1985-86 the allocation

was Rs.2.10 lakhs, the same amount was spent on 3,000 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87 the total allocation was Rs.3.27 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 4,640 beneficiaries.

In Santhal Pargana, in the year 1984-85, the allocation was Rs.69.80 lakhs and same amount was spent on 698 beneficiaries. In the year 1985-86 the allocation was Rs.68.00 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 691 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87 the allotment was Rs.43.37 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 691 beneficiaries.

In Singhbhum district in the year 1984-85 the total allocation was Rs.5.30 lakhs and the 1.53 lakhs were spent on 1,540 beneficiaries. In the 1985-86 the total allocation was Rs.2.75 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 2,750 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87 the allocation was Rs.3.99 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 5,713 beneficiaries.

In Palamau district in the year 1984-85 the allocation was Rs.23.00 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 237 beneficiaries. In 1985-86 the allocation was Rs.98.00 lakhs and expenditure was also Rs.98.00 lakhs and the number of beneficiaries was 1,800. In 1986-87 the allocation was Rs.74.90 lakhs, the expenditure was Rs.74.90 lakhs.

and the number of beneficiaries was 1,270.

The above description shows that in all the four districts from 1984 to 1987, the amount of allocation and expenditure were almost the same. The trend in the number of beneficiaries shows an increase. However, much variation is seen in the data. Where the expenditure is more the number of beneficiaries is less. It is told that the data were not fully available with the authorities concerned. However, there is an increase in the number of beneficiaries year after year. It shows that the allocation which was provided by the state government was utilized properly and also provided encouragement to the beneficiaries for further studies.

Policy behind the pre-matric scholarship scheme

The policy of the state government with regard to the schemes of financial assistance is to encourage and to help the tribal students in prosecuting their studies. Accordingly, the scheme of financial assistance was formulated to provide a sort of incentives to the students.

According to the state authorities, it is not feasible to cover all the pre-matric tribal students under the scheme of financial assistance. The policy is to select only those tribal students for the award of stipends

who qualify under merit-cum-means criterion. There is a district level committee to finalise the awardees' list on the basis of various criteria followed.

The Government of Bihar provides pre-matric scholarship from I to X classes. The rate of each scholarship in each class is given below.

Table 2: Rates of scholarship

(In Rupees)

Classes	Rate per month	Duration
I to IV	6.00	Financial assistance is for one year, that is, from January to December.
V to VI	12.00	
VII to X	24.00	

The above table shows that the rate of scholarship is doubled in middle and secondary school when compared to primary.

The purpose of awarding financial assistance was enquired from the headmasters. The following table shows the responses.

Table 3 : Purpose of awarding the scholarship.

N = 15

Purposes	Number of responses	Percentage
To achieve the universalization of elementary education	14	93.3
To help the economically and socially disadvantaged groups	7	46.6
To meet the cost of education	3	20.0
Belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes	11	73.3
To attract the students towards education	7	46.6

The table above reveals that the responses were multiple in nature. 93.3 per cent of the headmasters expressed the view that the purpose of awarding scholarships was to achieve the universalization of elementary education. 46.6 per cent told that its purpose was to help the economically and socially disadvantaged groups of pupil. 20 per cent told that it was to meet the cost of education, 46.6 per cent told that in order to attract the students towards education that it was given, and 73.3 per cent told that it is given to those who belong to Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste community.

So it shows that, majority of the respondents expressed the view that the purpose of awarding the scholarship was to help those who belonged to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community.

Criteria and implementation of pre-matric scholarship

The major criterion for award of financial assistance to these students is that they should belong to the state and be studying at government, government aided and government recognised schools and to the Scheduled Tribes. Parent's income was also considered. Mostly, every student got both incentives in cash and kind. However, if the applicants were more than the funds available then the stipend was granted to students on the merit basis.

Table 4 : Selection criteria

N = 15

Criteria	Number of responses	Percentage of responses
Low income of the parent	8	53.3
Low social status	4	26.7
Children's performance in examination	6	40.0
By virtue of his belonging to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe community	14	93.3

The table given above reveals that 53.3 per cent of headmasters opined that the financial assistance was given to those who come under low income group. 26.7 per cent told that it was given to those who have low social status. 40.0 per cent said the students' performance in the examination is the criterion. 93.3 per cent expressed the view that they get the assistance by virtue of their communities. From the above responses it is seen that the scholarship is mostly provided to the students belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe.

The procedure followed to get the scholarship

To get the scholarship, the students have to fill-up the prescribed proforma which is supplied by the Block Development Office. Along with the proforma he has to enclose caste/tribe certificate, which is issued by the Tehsildar. To get community certificate, they have to pay some money to the office or to spent a few days. Because of this difficulty some students or parents avoid to avail the pre-matric scholarship scheme. There was no income bar to get the scholarship, but the students had to pass with the prescribed percentage of marks.

There is a committee at the sub-divisional level to select the candidates. The District Welfare Officer is the chairman of this committee. A tribal representative, the local member of the Legislative Assembly, the Sub-divisional Officer and Education Officer are the members. They finalise the list of awardees on the basis of criteria mentioned above.

Regarding the procedure followed, the headmaster interviewed gave their appraisal on the method of applying for pre-matric scholarship. Fifteen headmasters were interviewed and they expressed their views which are as follow:

Table 5 : Method of applying for pre-matric scholarship

N = 15

Methods	Number of respondents	Percentage of responses
Student should apply in the appropriate form	13	86.7
His name is sent to the social welfare office	13	86.7
Students submit the application to the Block Development Office	20	66.6

Majority of the headmasters gave more than one response. 86.7 per cent of them told that the student should apply in the appropriate proforma. The same

Table 6 : Extent of financial assistance in the sample districts

(Rs. in lakhs)

Name of the districts	Allocation			Expenditure			Number of beneficiaries		
	84-85	85-86	86-87	84-85	85-86	86-87	84-85	85-86	86-87
Ranchi	44.64	123.2	101.4	44.64	123.2	69.07	23017	56559	53169
Santhal-Pargana	61.90	65.9	61.9	59.2	35.8	46.1	28375	30072	24559
Singhbhum	120.6	197.3	237.4	112.3	136.2	152.5	80442	106766	129156
Palamau	38.8	45.5	28.7	25.6	28.7	22.7	18254	24467	20357
Dhanbad	12.4	14.6	16.2	12.4	14.6	16.2	7367	11065	11571

The above table reveals the allocation, expenditure and total number of beneficiaries from the above sample districts.

In Ranchi district for the year 1984-85, the total allocation was Rs.44.64 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 23,017 beneficiaries. In the year 1985-86 the allocation was Rs.123.2 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 56,559 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87 the allocation was Rs. 101.4 lakhs and the expenditure was Rs.69.07 lakhs on 53,169 beneficiaries.

In Santhal Pargana district in the year 1984-85 the allocation was 61.90 lakhs, expenditure was Rs.59.2 lakhs and the number of beneficiaries were 28,375. In

the year 1985-86 the allocation was Rs.65.9 lakhs and the expenditure was Rs.35.8 lakhs and total number of beneficiaries were 30,072. In the year 1986-87 the allocation was Rs.61.9 lakhs, the expenditure was Rs.46.1 lakhs on 24,559 beneficiaries.

In Singhbhum district, for the year 1984-85 the allocation was Rs.120.6 lakhs, and the expenditure was Rs.112.3 lakhs on 80,442 beneficiaries. In the year 1985-86 the allocation was Rs.197.3 lakhs and Rs.136.2 lakhs were spent on 1,06,766 beneficiaries. For the year 1986-87, the allocation was Rs.237.4 lakhs and the expenditure was Rs.152.5 lakhs on 1,29,156 beneficiaries.

In Palamau district, in the year 1984-85 the allocation was Rs.30.8 lakhs and the expenditure was Rs.25.6 lakhs the number of beneficiaries was 18,254. In the year 1985-86 the allocation was Rs.45.5 lakhs and the expenditure was Rs.28.7 lakhs on 24,467 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87 the allotment was Rs.28.7 lakhs, the expenditure was Rs.22.7 lakhs and the number of beneficiaries were 20,357.

In Dhanbad district for the year 1984-85 the allocation was Rs.12.4 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 7,367 beneficiaries. In 1985-86 the allocation was Rs.14.6

lakhs and the same amount was spent on 11,065 beneficiaries. The allocation was Rs.16.2 lakhs, and the same amount was spent on 11,571 beneficiaries for the year 1986-87.

From the above analysis it is understood that Singhbhum had received the highest amount among the sample districts. The beneficiaries figure was also high in 1984-85, 1985-86 but in 1986-87 complete figures of the beneficiaries was not available, the officer respondents asserted that some time the figures were not received from the field.

Hostel grant

The hostel grant was provided by the state government to the Scheduled Tribe students who are staying in the hostels. The amount was given for 12 months. The rates of each item is different. Rs.175 per month, for boarding purpose, Rs.150 for uniforms, Rs.100 for educational expenditure, Rs.10 for stationery charges, and Rs.6 for medical charges were given. Apart from the above facilities in the hostel, library, magazines etc. were also provided separately. The total amount spent on the number of beneficiaries is given in the following table.

Table 7 : Hostel grant for Scheduled Tribes and its beneficiaries

(Rs. in lakhs)

Names of the districts	Allocation			Expenditure			Number of beneficiaries		
	84-85	85-86	86-87	84-85	85-86	86-87	84-85	85-86	86-87
Ranchi (Residential schools)	17.3	16.6	10.8	17.3	16.6	10.8	1,156	1,156	1,156
Santhal Pargana (Hostel grant for girls)	0.23	0.20	0.10	0.23	0.19	0.10	17	11	11
Singhbhum (Hostel grant)	0.51	5.1	5.3	0.51	1.4	3.3	44	259	382
Palamau (Hostel grant including residential schools)	0.7	0.50	2.1	0.7	0.50	2.1	9	53	224
Dhanbad	Data not available								

The table above reveals the allocation, expenditure and number of beneficiaries of hostel grant to the Scheduled Tribe students.

In Ranchi district in the year 1984-85 the allocation was Rs.17.3 lakhs, and the same amount was spent on 1,156 beneficiaries. In the year 1985-86 the allocation was Rs.16.6 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 1,156, beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87 the allocation was Rs.10.8 lakhs and the same amount spent on

1,156 beneficiaries. It is thus seen that the number of beneficiaries remained the same though the amount allocated and expenditure incurred were different during the three years.

In Santhal Pargana district, in the year 1984-85 the allocation was Rs.0.23 lakhs, and the same amount was spent on 17 beneficiaries. In the year 1985-86 the allocation was Rs.0.20 lakhs and expenditure was Rs.0.19 lakhs on 11 beneficiaries. In 1986-87 the amount allotted was Rs.0.10 lakhs and the same amount spent on 11 beneficiaries.

In Singhbhum district in the year 1984-85 the allocation was Rs.0.51 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 44 beneficiaries. In the year 1985-86 the allocation was Rs.5.1 lakhs and the expenditure was Rs.1.4 lakhs on 259 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87 the allocation was Rs.5.3 lakhs and the expenditure was Rs.3.3 lakhs on 382 beneficiaries.

In Palamau district in the year 1984-85 the allocation was Rs.0.7 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 9 beneficiaries. In the year 1985-86 the allocation was Rs.0.50 lakhs, and the same amount was spent on 53 beneficiaries. In the year 1986-87 the allocation

was Rs.2.1 lakhs and the same amount was spent on 224 beneficiaries.

The above analysis shows that among the sample districts, Ranchi had received the highest amount for the purpose of hostel grant. In Singhbhum and Palamau the number of beneficiaries increased gradually, whereas in Ranchi and Santhal Praganas the beneficiaries number was almost constant.

Machinery and mode of disbursement

There is a special machinery available to disburse the financial assistance to the tribal students. The pre-matric scholarship scheme is executed by the Director of Welfare. He sanctions the amount against schemes to each District Welfare Officer. Later on, the District Welfare Officer sends the allotment to the concerned Block Development Officer/Sub-division Officer to disburse it to the concerned school. After getting the allotment the Block Development Officers/Sub-divisional Officers inform the headmasters of the schools to submit the application forms. The Block Development Officers were the drawing, disbursing and sanctioning officers for primary and middle schools. The District Welfare Officers

and Sub-divisional Officers are the drawing and disbursing officers for the secondary schools. The headmasters were in no way concerned with the cash. Their duty was to identify the awardee in front of the Block Development Officer and also to collect the application forms from the Scheduled Tribe students.

So far as the sanction of the funds is concerned, the headmasters were interviewed. 66.7 per cent of them replied that the funds get sanctioned through the District Social Welfare Officer. 33.3 per cent told that the Block Development Officers/Sub-divisional Officers sanction the funds.

So far as the release of the funds is concerned, the headmasters gave multiple responses, which are as follows: 15 (80 per cent) of them told that the fund was released by the District Social Welfare Officer. Seven (46.66 per cent) told that it was released by the Block Development Officer. All the headmasters responded regarding the presence of an officer at the time of disbursement of financial assistance. In the presence of the Block Development Officer financial assistance was disbursed to the awardees.

Chapter Two

STRENGTH AND WEAKNESSES OF THE SCHEME AND DELAY IN DISBURSEMENT

Strength and weaknesses of the scheme

In the earlier chapter, the scheme of financial assistance has been discussed. Here, an attempt has been made to determine the strong and weak points of the scheme.

The financial assistance is given in both cash and kind. Incentives in cash include pre-matric scholarship and hostel grant. Incentives in kind include only uniform.

The amount involved in incentives in cash provided to the primary students is Rs.6 per month, to middle school students Rs.12 per month and to secondary school students Rs.24 per month. But this amount was not sufficient to meet the educational expenditure. So, to meet their expenditure, they borrow money from their parents. The headmasters confirmed that cent per cent of them expressed the opinion that the amount of scholarship was inadequate for them.

There was only pre-matric scholarship scheme in Bihar. There was no other scholarship through which the student could encourage themselves for the competitive purpose.

So far as incentives in kind were concerned, there was only provision of uniform. There was no provision of mid day meal, which was a better incentives for the primary school students as encouragement for more enrolment in the school. Other incentives like textbook grant and stationery facilities were not there which could have helped the student in their study.

According to the views of the parents, the financial assistance was not provided regularly and in full to all the students.

The students should be provided merit scholarship and textbook grant, facility for mid day meal, hostel facility for students who come from far off places, medicine facility, and sports facility also should be there for the students. The rate of scholarship is very low to meet the expenditure. Payment should be deposited in the bank. The headmasters have remarked that the style of imparting education was not effective as it clashed with the aim of the students, his nature to outward environment, bad economic condition, unawareness of the parents about their children's education etc.

Delay at different levels of disbursement

The time fixed by the state government to disburse the scholarship was either quarterly, half yearly, or yearly. But the scholarship did not reach at the scheduled time to the students.

Regarding the delay in disbursement, the headmasters, the beneficiaries and the parents were interviewed. Majority of the headmasters, beneficiaries and parents expressed their opinion that there was delay in disbursement.

Table 8.: Delay in disbursement of pre-matric scholarship

	N=15	N=35	N=35
Duration	Teachers	Students	Parent
One year	2 (13.3%)	-	-
More than one year	13 (86.7%)	35(100%)	35(100%)

The table shows that 13.3 per cent headmasters expressed that the delay was upto one year. 86.7 per cent told that the delay was more than one year. Cent per cent of the beneficiaries and parents expressed the opinion that the delay was more than one year.

they did not get any remuneration from the government for this work. The headmasters demanded some money from the students out of their total amount of scholarship. During the field visit of the investigator, some students reported about the behaviour of headmasters. Some times the headmasters identified the Block Development Officers who gave the certificates to those students who were not Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. They also usually did not submit forms of the students in proper time to the authority.

The headmasters were interviewed for the causes of delay in disbursement. The responses were as follows:

Table 9 : Causes of delay in disbursement of pre-matric scholarship

N = 15

Causes	Number of responses	Percentage
Non-availability of information from the authorities	15	100
Delay by the children in submitting the necessary documents	6	40
Malpractices in sanctioning and disbursing of pre-matric scholarship	2	13.3

The table above reveals that cent per cent of the headmaster told that delay was due to the non-availability

of information from the authorities. 13.3 per cent told that there was malpractice in sanctions and disbursement of pre-matric scholarship. 40 per cent of the respondents told that delay was due to the delay by the students in submitting the necessary documents.

It shows that mostly the delay occurred due to the non-availability of information from the authorities.

Non-payment of the scholarship

There was no such evidence about the non-payment of the scholarship.

From the above chapter on weakness and strength of the scheme, the facilities of incentives both in cash and kind which was provided by the state government were not satisfactory. There was delay in disbursement of scholarship for more than one year. One of the causes of delay was the mismatching of the financial year and academic year. Some of the students reported that the headmasters collected a little amount from them.

Chapter Thrice

UTILIZATION AND MISUTILIZATION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Utilization

The success of any scheme of financial assistance largely depends upon its utilization. Allocation of funds itself is not enough unless it is properly utilized. In the present chapter an endeavour has been made to study the different patterns of utilization of the amount of financial assistance given to tribal students. Mis-utilization and non-utilization have also been discussed here.

As stated earlier, the state government have the provision for providing the pre-matric scholarship both in cash and kind. With regard to the proper utilization of the financial assistance, the headmasters were interviewed to get their responses. Cent per cent of the headmasters told that they properly utilized the money. On further enquiry about the items on which they spent the money, the table given below shows the responses of the headmasters.

Table 10 : Items of utilization of money by the students

$\bar{N} = 15$

Items	Number of respondents	Percentage
Purchasing books and stationery	10	66.7
Making clothes	10	66.7
Handingover to the parents	13	86.6

Many of the respondents gave more than one response. The table above reveals that 66.7 per cent headmasters told that the students utilized the money by purchasing books and stationery. 86.6 per cent told that students handedover the money to their parents. 66.7 per cent told that they made clothes.

So it is apparent that the majority of the students handedover the money to their parents, even though handing over money to their parents does not come under utilization.

Besides, some headmasters suggested about the proper utilization of the scholarship.

About the proper utilization of scholarship, the beneficiaries were also interviewed. Their responses are given below in the table.

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Table 11 : Mode of expenditure by the students

N = 35

Items	Number of respondents	Percentage
Utilize for educational needs	16	45.7
Hand over to the parents	30	85.7
Made clothes and other fashionable items	5	14.2

Many of the beneficiaries gave more than one response. The table above shows that 45.7 per cent of the beneficiaries expressed that they utilized the money for educational purpose. 85.7 per cent told that they handed over the money to their parents. 14.2 per cent told that they spent the money, on making clothes and other fashionable items.

So majority of the students handed over the money to their parents. Regarding the utilization of the scholarship the parents were also interviewed. They expressed the view that the students utilized the money on education by purchasing books, pen, pencil etc. The pattern of expenditure is same as told by the headmasters.

Misutilization

The term misutilization connotes different meanings in different contexts. In connection with the schemes of financial assistance it means the utilization of amount for purposes other than those for which it is meant. For misutilization the responsibility is more on the recipient than on the executors of the schemes. Efforts were made to find out as to what the teachers and the beneficiaries meant by the term.

The above table shows the responses of the headmasters. Out of the 15 headmasters interviewed, 66.6 per cent defined misutilization as spending the money on making clothes. 86.6 per cent expressed the view that handing over the amount to their parents constituted as misutilization.

Table 11 shows the responses of the beneficiaries. Out of the 35 respondents, 85.7 per cent told that the amount was handed over to the parents, and 14.2 per cent told that they made clothes and other fashionable items. Both the views constituted as the misutilization of the scholarship.

Therefore, on the basis of the responses given by respondents, one common denominator emerges and that is that the amount of financial assistance was spent either

by the students or by the parents on non-educational items constituting misutilization.

Non-utilization

Having considered misutilization of financial assistance by the tribal students, the extent of non-utilization of funds for the various schemes needs to be examined. It is said that for misutilization, the recipients are largely responsible, because it is upto them to use or misuse the financial assistance. As far as non-utilization is concerned, the disbursing authorities are to bear the responsibility. Here the recipients may also contribute indirectly to the non-utilization of funds in the sense that when tribal students eligible for the amount of financial assistance are not available, the authorities may either surrender the funds or may divert the funds to some other purpose.

Chapter Four

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The main purpose of the schemes of financial assistance for pre-matric tribal students is, as revealed by the study, to promote the tribal education and thereby to help the tribal students meet a part of the expenditure on education.

Under the pre-matric scholarship scheme the government of Bihar implements both incentives in cash and kind. Incentives in cash include pre-matric scholarship, hostel grants, exemption from the tuition fees etc. Incentives in kind include uniform to the Scheduled Tribe students.

The criterion for getting the scholarship is only through merit-cum-means basis. There was no income bar of the parents to get the scholarship.

Regarding incentives in cash the State Government has provided scholarship to different schools. The rate of scholarship are Rs.6 in primary schools Rs.12 in middle schools, and Rs.24 in high schools.

The majority of the recipients, teachers and parents in all the sample districts reported inadequacy of assistance given to the tribal students. According to the headmasters of the sample schools the facilities

like medicare, recreational facilities, and the academic oriented programme were necessary.

The procedure for applying for the scholarship is a little bit complicated. In every academic year the parents of the students had to get a caste certificate which is issued by the Tehsildar. This task is very difficult for the parents. Either they had to pay some amount or to spend a few days to get the certificate.

So far as the machinery and mode of disbursement of financial assistance is concerned, the District Social Welfare Officer, the Block Development Officer, the Sub-divisional Officer deal with the disbursement of scholarship. The headmasters were in no way concerned with the cash or item in kind. At the time of disbursement the Block Development Officer always remains present in the class to check it. The delay of disbursement was almost more than one year, as opined by the headmasters, the beneficiaries and the parents.

So far as the weakness and strength of financial scheme is concerned, it was reported that both the incentives in kind and cash which were provided by the government were unsatisfactory. The incentives in cash that is pre-matric scholarship was not sufficient to meet the educational

expenditure. There is no provision of awarding merit or other scheme. Among the incentive in kind only uniform was provided. There were no other incentives in kind like mid day meal, stationery etc.

So far as the utilization of the scholarship is concerned, it was the opinion of the headmasters, beneficiaries and parents that the students utilized their money by handing it over to their parents. It depended upon the parents whether they utilized it in proper way or misutilized it in any other way.

Recommendations

The government provided only pre-matric scholarship to the Scheduled Tribe students. But it was not enough to meet the educational expenditure. Hence steps should be taken to introduce other kinds of merit scholarship to the students to bring in them a competitive spirit.

The policy of pre-matric scholarship scheme which the state government has undertaken was not implemented properly.

A sympathetic approach is needed to increase the amount of scholarship at the primary, middle and high school levels, to all the Scheduled Tribe students. In

approach is also needed to provide incentives in kind like, mid day meal, text book, stationaries etc. to meet the in educational needs.

So far as the disbursement of the scholarship is concerned, it should be disbursed among the students in the beginning of the academic year. At the time of disbursement the malpractices indulged by the headmasters may be removed. The delay in disbursement may be avoided.

The procedure of applying for scholarship is so cumbersome that the students face much trouble at times. At the time of applying for the scholarship the student has to bring the caste certificate from the concerned authority. It takes a lot of time to issue one certificate. Steps should be taken to reduce the above lengthy procedure of getting certificate as far as possible.

So far as the utilization of the scholarship is concerned, it has been reported that the majority of the students handed over the money to their parents. But it was not the proper way to utilize the scholarship. There should be proper procedure or a clear cut instruction by the authorities about the utilization of financial assistance.

Most of the teachers recommended that, besides scholarships, there should be medical facility and sports facility for the students.

Lastly, there may be a follow-up action taken by the authorities for proper implementation of the scheme, so that malpractices by the headmasters may be removed.

Appendix

Names of sample schools visited

Districts

Names of the schools

G U J A R A T

Baroda

Bhatpur primary school, Bhatpur
Sajava primary school, Sajava
Sarvajani High school, Sajava

Bharuch

Halpati Seva Singh Bardoli Sanskrit
Ashramsala, Samarpada
Adarsh Prathamika Patasala, Samarpada
St. Xavier High School, Nirola

Surat

Ashram Sala, Vedchhi (Primary)
Uttar Buniyadi Ashram Sala, Vedchhi
Taluka Sala, Vyara

Valsad

Kolghar Ashram Sala, Dharmpura
Dharmpura Taluka Ashram Sala,
Jamnabhai
Uttar Buniyadi Vidyalaya, Kaprada

Panchamhal

Randhokpur Amarkunj Ashramsala,
Randhikpur
Restriya Uttar Buniyadi Vidyalaya,
Merakhedi
Orwada Krishi Prathamika Sala, Orwada

R A J A S T H A N

Banswara	Govt. Primary School, Bhagkot Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School, Banswara
Dungarpur	Govt. Primary School, Dungarpur Govt. Middle School, Dhungarpur Govt. Secondary School, Dhungarpur
Jaipur	Govt. Primary School, Kanota Govt. High School, Palthemina Govt. Higher Secondary School, Jaipur
Sawai Madhopur	Govt. Primary School No. 2, Sawai Madhopur Govt. Girls Upper Sr. Primary School, Sawai Madhopur
Udaipur	Govt. Primary School, Bhopalpur Govt. Middle School, Koya Govt. Secondary School, Baropal

M A H A R A S H T R A

Yavatmal

Uttam Madhyamik Marathi Sala, Loharr
English Medium School, Yavatmal

Chandrapur

Janata Vidhyalaya, Gondpipri
Karmaveer Vidhyalaya, Yenbadi

Nesik

Janata Vidhyalaya, Abhoni
K B H Vidhyalaya, Girnarra

Dhulia

K S K New City High School, Dhulia
Sanskrit Vidhya Niketan, Dhulia

Thane

Vajreswary New English School,
Vajreswari
Zilla Parishad School, Bhiwandi,
Ganeshpuri